

Executive Committee Meeting 11/10/2021

**Apologies:** Shane, Martin, Clodagh, Niamh, Faye, Kirsty, Anita.

### **Officer Updates**

**Eimear:** Gaelseachtain launched, went on Blaidhaire to talk about gaelseachtain, attended strategic council for gaeilge and joined the relevant working group. Is going to recruit an additional student for the working group from An Cumann Gaelach. At strategic meeting Eimear mentioned Caife na Gaeilge closure and will follow up on this issue if necessary. Ciorcál Comhra has started weekly in the hub.

**Sai:** Met with Noelle about food sustainability scheme and buildings officer to get space on north campus for students to sit and eat. Working on plagiarising workshops and with career development centre for part time job conference.

**Orlaith:** no updates.

**Krystian:** No Updates, has taken on class rep responsibilities in the confusion of the cyber attack.

**Jack:** Met with class rep about getting seat on medicine curriculum programme board, casework, met with Niamh to talk about the possibility of a podcast about different kinds of disabilities. Trying to manage the chaos with IT systems being down. Mentions that the WiFi in the library is apparently not working.

**Ethan:** Organising reopening with Riona, two big charity events to be organised this semester (maybe a pumpkin drive and then a mini Christmas market on campus, this is only in the preliminary stages of being discussed and organised).

**Anne Marie:** Minceirs back into education meetings, research committee in the process of making a survey, Emma Hutchinson asked about diversity week (dates TBC). Suggests doing events around foods and dances from different cultures for to promote multiculturalism, Roisin suggests pot luck.

**Matthew:** Global Galway meeting, initiative to attract international students, good idea but finite programme that doesn't seem to think long-term. Very concerned about the networks being down, how are we supposed to research? What is university going to do? Anne Marie mentions they extended the deadline in her course by one week. Roisin mentions that Clodagh contacted deans of schools and only approx. three got back to her. Roisin notes staff's hard work but anticipates we might need to make demands of to meet needs of student body.

**Roisin:** Global Galway meeting, labour party with Galway west to talk about student issues, helped Eimear with Gaelseachtain, consent filming today in Dublin for the Department of Justice SPIN1038 campaign and for the national Speak Out tool launch, PHD maternity students ongoing issue about their treatment – getting locked out of library and email accounts (visitor access card was mentioned to us as a possible solution). Just back from annual leave.

**Cora:** Casework (SUSI fees and laptop loan scheme being big issues currently), Labour- party meeting, Mental health week – Eimear mentions Grian (USI) sent a database of guest speakers who work through Irish.

### **Coldtober/vember**

Ethan explains that coldvember supported Helplink last year and were approached to do the same this year, students said no and said that they like to change charities and then Helplink organised

coldtober and the problem is that it undermines coldvember. Ethan asks for people's opinions on the matter. Roisin mentions that last year coldvember wanted to collab with the SU but wouldn't unless it was a mental health charity, which led to the SU having three charities last year. They did not consider Galway Rape Crisis Centre as a mental health charity. Ethan asks are we ok with supporting both? Roisin thinks both are good, Eimear agrees that it's all for the greater good, Ethan mentions how it could undermine coldvember.

### **Mental health week**

Cora runs through the general ideas for the week so far mentioning talk on sex x mental health, petting farm, yoga trí Gaeilge, Tackle your feelings campaign and a possible talk about substance abuse. Anne Marie mentions traveller mental health and suicide rates, will talk to the Minceirs Wheiden soc and will get back to Cora on Wednesday. Roisin raises issue around pet farm because of animal cruelty and suggests a bus of volunteers go to Madra to walk the dogs as an alternative. Horse and donkey whispering mentioned by Annemarie, positive for mental health issues. Roisin suggests period packs be distributed, ie, rudaí allainn bag with chocolate, facemasks, fluffy socks and period products. Eimear mentions Katie for an event through about mental health through Irish and will send on info to Cora. Anne Marie mentions drumming circle and says she knows of someone of someone and will send on details. Roisin recommends a brainstorming session tmrw or Wednesday and asks Ethan to check in with socs on what they are doing that week.

### **Council**

Does anyone have any questions? Eimear asks about 9a and 9b protocols and Roisin says she will send out list about that to explain. Eimear asks what to expect as officers? Roisin will say she takes our reports as read and will ask if people have any questions, after which we do motions, then do AOB. It will be online because Donal Leech was asked for approval as a UMT member and he didn't give it. After council free drinks tokens and pizza available in SULT. Roisin asks the exec to try to take their reports as read as gaeilge and incorporate gaeilge if you can. Reminds people to refer to council as Comhairle. Sai asks if when Comhairle is in person can any student attend? Roisin says yes but reminds us that only class reps can vote. Roisin assures exec that it will all be ok and warns that something dramatic can often happen at council so prepare yourself for that!

### **AOB**

- Cusp working groups are available to join, Roisin suggests that Sai join the food waste working group. Roisin will email the list of groups.
- Sai says recently the computer sci soc said they could make mailing lists for the convenors to email all their class reps. They manage the servers and wanted to help, Ethan says he can check with Riona is that's ok and Roisin advises Sai to check with Chris in case there is a GDPR issue with that.
- Roisin asks how convenors are communicating with class reps? Sai uses Instagram, discord and WhatsApp, but mostly discord. Jack contacts them through friends of friends to pass messages along, notes that a list of emails would be helpful. Krystian uses WhatsApp or email, mentions difficulty using discord and that it can be hard to reach out to people.
- Roisin mentions Teresa Lydon enquired about how class reps are communicating with convenors and asked how course group chats are being made if WhatsApp limit has been exceeded as she worries about students being left out. Sai mentions the popularity of discords in stem (especially with younger years) and notes that they do not have a limit on the amount of members.