

UCDSU Exec 2-17/9/19

Meeting Open: 18:15

Present:

Barry Murphy [BM]

Stephen Crosby [SC]

Thomas Monaghan [TM]

Niall Torris [NT]

Melissa Plunkett [MP]

Edward Leonard [EL]

Niall Donohoe [N o D]

Treasa Moloney [TeMa]

Sophie Sheridan Burns [SSB]

Sophie Gibbons [SG]

Emily Bollard [EB]

Alex Bolster [AB]

Absent

Amy Mulchrone [AM]

Aoibheann Nic Giolla Riogh [AnGR]

Minutes of last meeting approved

- Sabbat Reports:

1) BM:

Interviews to replace COO role, helping Barry to get out of his office and engage with students. Great interviews, narrowed down to 3 candidates, candidates to meet with Sabbats and then successful candidate to be elected.

Few student cases and a drive for shop staff recruitment.

Students who may be taking a year out and can work full time. Part time work still available but deficit of hours needs full time workers to fill. Shop staff forum held during the summer with part time staff to highlight what needs to be done better, simple things. Ability to give constructive feedback, change of hours assigned to students during exam periods, reduction from 8/9 hours to four hours.

Students can pick up multiple shifts during this time if they still require three extra hours. Focus placed on a student's academics as well as making money to support themselves. Freshers ball went very well, praise given to Keleigh for running an excellent event.

Recruitment of a secretary for Exec/Council

Student concerns and queries regarding on campus issues, more than last year, fees, housing, rejection of mental health society construction work on res. These students should be energized to join UCDSU in any way they can, helping to solve these issues.

First meeting of FRAMC next week.

Setting up of Freshers Tent space over the weekend

HR reviews with Michelle, the new HR manager

Michael Foley (returning officer) meeting regarding constituency review, more class rep seats, more pairs, students no longer the only class rep per constituency in more cases.

TM: Deficit in class reps highlighted by some students (Archaeology), the more class reps the better.

BM: If a student comes and asks about their constituency, make them give the details outlined on the form and MF will email these students notifying them of their constituencies

Main goal is to speak to as many students as possible, class rep recruitment, getting involved and showing off the union

Attended the launch of the IUA's strategic plan.

More planning on the Raytheon protest on October 3rd.

N o D: Why can't the secretary be paid for their work?

BM: Currently being looked at in the constitutional review. Currently described as a voluntary student role. The secretary role requires a lot of work and should be rewarded as such.

2) SC:

Report Taken as Read

SG: Can I and SSB be informed about social science events such as programme boards more in advance?

SC: Apologies, dropped the ball and was only notified of these meetings just prior to notifying CO's. Will set up meetings between CO's and relevant board secretaries to keep everyone in the loop.

BM: How is the casework workload?

SC: Has dropped since the CAO offer/orientation period, mostly SUSI queries. Mostly online/phone consultation

BM: As need for service/awareness of service grows so will casework and students dropping in.

3) MP:

Tina Lowe meeting regarding bathrooms (e.g. Newman) and their accessibility when these bathrooms are rendered unclean/inaccessible

Met with Sandra Tighe, the head of UCDs health center, discussion of pricing of services. Wishes for UCDSU to consult on the updating of the health center website.

Met with please talk UCD, discussing their plans for the year and the unsure nature of their funding, how they can work with UCDSU

Meeting with Consent at UCD

Met with Active Campus Europe (ACE) Taking over from the get in gear programme, aim is to encourage students to get active, gave pointers on maximizing student engagement.

Large amount of casework

Res review group meeting coming up, hopefully able to discuss issues on Res both during and afterwards.

EDI meeting this week

Study skills seminar tomorrow evening

Mostly in the freshers tent this week

EB: When you met with Sandra Tighe, was there any word of online appointment booking?

MP: It is something the health center has discussed. Two new hires in the health center and no large-scale changes are wanted to be made prior to the implementation of new staff.

BM: When you present in person you should now be seen straight away by the new triage staff person. Online services are often booked out very early.

4) TM:

Main drive of the week is on class rep recruitment, 5 lecture addresses on Monday and more students spoken to in the freshers Tent.

Sold out the freshers Ball, two sold out events back to back with John Gibbons

Prepped Union stand at fresher's tent with BM

Kickstarting of MATE campaign

Promotion of Union of social media, snapchat audience is going up daily

Met with Coppers representatives during the week to discuss potential plans to work together over the year

Speaking with Anna Liffey Drug Project to discuss working together on drug awareness campaigns

Met with Gender Equality campaign coordinator to discuss March for Choice 2018

Item for discussion of Raise the Roof protest later in meeting

Freshers week is the busiest week of the year, focus of all of exec should be class rep recruitment and pushing the union

EDI meeting

Plans to meet with UCDSU LGBTQ+ coordinator and EL

Met with Brian Mullins about European Week of sport. Confirmed nutritionist coming in to speak about how students can eat healthy on a budget.

Ongoing search for acts to come to UCD and liaising with venues for wristbands etc. so students can get their classes out for bonding.

Testimonials regarding housing issues being sourced and compiled for campaign video. Two locked in so far.

Undercover viewings unable to be recorded just due to busy nature of the past 3 weeks

EB: How are the campaign coordinators getting on?

TM: Have met with all bar 2, have established a poll to find a time for bi-monthly campaign forums.

BM: Campaign on housing, we now have time to focus on lobbying government, RaiseThe Roof housing march

5) NT:

Casework, several cases to develop, sabbats are aware of long standing cases

Four drop ins alone today, grad rep form finalized

Met with Alex to discuss Smurfit integration

Election registration, garda available to sign forms. Orientation of Freshers Tent and Freshers Week makes it difficult to sign people up to vote

Belfield FM Podcast series planning going well

Grads connect all booked

Seanad registration campaign, video recording etc. to take place in Week 4, connection of registration to Grads Connect

AB:

Speaking with Niall on questions of integrating Smurfit and Belfield campus, how their Rep system works. Academic, Social and Careers Rep system outline, lacking in Social Reps, therefore this is something we could sue to draw the to the Union. May not be as focused on going out as frequently undergrad students but we can still promote nights out.

NT: Something that had been planned last year prior to impeachment, with a deficit in resources halting this. Masters programme last for one year, programmes are largely transient. We need to focus on beings seen as useful to the faculty and staff in Smurfit so they send the Reps to UCDSU, training of these reps is lacking in the social aspect and the SU can change this.

AB: I will be at grads Connect and working with Student Ambassadors, can see how graduate students feel and what they might want.

BM: I believe voter registration is suitable during Freshers Week. Guards saw value themselves in coming into Freshers Week, we can work more on the promo of the Guards hours when they're on campus. Can you compile a document on the relevant contacts to organdie voter registration for next year's Fresh Fest?

NT: Absolutely!

All Sabbatical Officer Reports Approved

College Officer Reports:

1) EB:

Apologies for being late, absolutely mad lab prior which only ended at 6

No feedback from Elaine, contacted Joe Carthy, meeting planned with Catriona Keane. Setting up of Chill/Relaxation room (Originally in Ag and Vet)

Spoke to a lot of people interested in running for Class rep for Science

Collecting advice for module guide, getting 2nd,3rd and final years to fill in google docs on modules to help aid younger students choose their modules during registration

BM: System developed in science works well, provides honest feedback. Can this system be circulated to the college officers?

EB: Will do

BM: How did the meeting with Elaine go?

EB: Frustration with unwillingness science staff to engage on improving facilities in science

BM: Escalation may be required, bringing along a Sabbat officer for support, asking the hard questions such as the usage of seats/couches and thus why they are worn down etc.

EB: Science is a building used by so many different courses

AB: Are the seats leather?

EB: They are, same as in other buildings

AB: You could ask the producers of the furniture what the shelf life of these products is supposed to be

EL: With the Chill Room, you could liaise with the UCDSU Disability Rights Coordinator, same service in TCD. Can be useful to students with sensory processing issues.

2) EL:

Tried to meet informally with Imelda Maher. Have contacted Paul Masterton who organizes her timetable

Posted in Law freshers group

Law with economics class clashing issues, still sorting this out with SC, will email Maureen Reynolds on this again as there are still clashes present. School of Econ/Pol etc. changed their semester timetable and these are clashing with Law modules.

BM: Did students come directly to you asking about that?

EL: Students complaining to each other and to me directly. I have posted in all the Law Facebook groups about my position so they're all aware.

BM: We appreciate your responsiveness to students needs

3) AB:

Organized a meeting with head of investor and entrepreneurs soc, happy to take my ideas on board. Main ideas are dragon's den/entrepreneurs event.

Can officers emails be passed on to Auditor so they can contact you regarding involvement of your faculties? (Approved by exec)

Contacted TM on presidential speaking event

Started recruited class reps in my own class, will broaden to recruitment of class reps across business

Couldn't arrange a meeting with Keleigh regarding events but they have a mutual connection with Tom, so this was not necessary

On SU Posters If there are any printed already I can post these in Quinn

EL: If we have notice boards in places like Law/Quinn, can officer reports be placed there?

BM: Of course, especially if they can be secured safely

BM: How are you getting on with the staff etc. in Quinn?

AB: Going well so far, managed to get SU's presence on noticeboards sorted, roadblocks on the microwaves from the building staff regarding cleanliness and smell etc.

BM: Have you used an example of where they worked elsewhere?

AB: I have, used example of alcoves in Quinn similar to those in Science with no complaints, no definitive answer on the microwaves. Possibly more likely to happen when the new extension is completed. For the sake of a few weeks, would like to see them implemented ASAP.

BM: Now that the SU has installed them in other buildings there are many examples of how these microwaves work.

NT: Once you have an evidence base, which we do, you should be able to alleviate any concerns that programme/building managers may have

EB: Were the microwaves from last year exclusively funded by the SU?

BM: They were 100%. Odhran Lawlor is the UCD head of Hospitality and Food services and gave the go ahead for the SU microwaves in the shops following consultation.

4) SSB:

Met with SG last week to plan SU Halloween event. Received emails from students concerned with Geography module. Will contact SC regarding writing a letter to coordinator/head of geography. Plans to lecture address in Newman this week.

TM: I have loads of lecture addresses done and can meet with both AHHS officers to help them on what to say etc.

SG: Regardless of whether it's a fresher's class/done already, we would like for students can recognize us in our roles

BM: Of course, positive to get your faces out there

BM: In terms of Halloween event, when is Halloween?

SG: Halloween is very soon, had planned to do event the week of the 22nd. Overall the main point is to have one large focal point/social event in Newman. Plan is for Semester 2, with another vent late in Semester 1.

TM: You can liaise with the Clubhouse who will happily do an event around Halloween/be Halloween themed.

BM: If you meet with Keleigh to plan an event you can get something good together for later in semester 1 and then you can focus on Semester 2.

SSB: Can I sit on the Arts programme board?

BM: Was speaking to Ronan Murphy

5) SG:

Was contacting school managers etc. to get meetings with schools

Huge push on getting our roles recognized in Newman and recruiting class rep

Meeting with UCDSU environmental coordinator

Organizing of coffee mornings with SSB to help students come to us as officers with their issues.

Will need a pop up with SU branding etc.

Will Dean of Social science to discuss new programme and current state of Newman building (whole list of concerns) and lack of space to study during the exams.

MP: Where would you put the kitchenet?

SG: A centralized location with hot water, microwaves etc.

BM: Difficult to organize in a building such as Newman where pipework is already done etc.

SG: Seating still also a huge issue, been promised and promised. Last update was that there would be seating placed on faculty floors in each wing, but this has not been followed up.

MP: Can you suggest the implementation of a breastfeeding room with a space to sit, a fridge etc.

SG: Of course, can bring it up, is there someone I can speak to about the demand beforehand?

MP: If you speak to Catherine Tormey, the mature student adviser, she'll be happy to speak to you.

BM: Regarding coffee mornings, if you email us prior we can help organize these events and provide pastries etc. Please invite us all and Sabbats will be able to make it down.

AB: I have plans to run similar events, networking events when students return after semester 1 exams

6) N o D:

Met with UCDSU environmental coordinator

Added to the APB schedule

Emailed student who conducted the laptop survey and awaiting a response

Waiting on few second years to confirm for the "what I wish I knew" event for first years

Planning on recruiting class reps and lecture addressing, will communicate with Tom

Speaking to Connor Flannery, headhunting 3rd years who may be good class reps

Need to arrange a meeting with Barry regarding upgrading of Eng. common room and to meet the other Eng. societies

Difficult to engage with architecture, more so the programme/office directors

BM: Use time for Freshers tent volunteering to engage with Architecture students in their common room etc., they will happily engage when you come to them. If you get in contact with Colleen Doyle the Eng. student adviser

EB: If there's anything you need help with regarding road safety week completely happy to help out, involvement of cycle soc

7) TeMa:

Report Taken as Read

Can I edit the Irish on the reporting structure?

NT: Go ahead and please send it back to us.

All Officer Reports Approved

Items for Discussion:

Raise the Roof Protest:

TM:

Housing protest on 3rd of October Sleepout planned for the night before. Discussion on whether it should be inside campus or outside. Ideal location is the N11 bus stop, with safety concerns. Strictly nonalcoholic event. Poster making session planned. Sleepout that night in protest, getting up early on the morning of the 3rd to return camping gear to SU corridor. Brunch planned upon arrival in town and then a meeting outside the dial prior to the start of the march.

BM: Not marching alone, all different student groups and housing activists. Proximity to RTE and N11 will attract attention. Objective is to build momentum to put pressure on the government and add to the general housing movement. What do you all think?

NT: Simple addition would be a protest piece, emulating the Fredrick Street eviction. More likely to be a video rather than a physical presence

EB: Whole sleepover idea is a great idea for getting students involved and aware of the crisis.

TM: If we can get students who have been affected to engage in the protest it would be great to amplify their voices to add to the national campaign

BM: Weather and exposed nature of campaign would be an issue. We will need to make sure its attractive for students to come to. I will be in contact with other student's groups, Galway students are planning on sleeping out and getting busses to Dublin the next day.

AB: Do we plan on making students bring their own tents?

BM: We will probably do a mix, can source some tents and ask students to share theirs for a night.

SG: You need to make it look like it'll be good fun to go to.

AB: You can also contact the Belvedere College Sleepout team as they do annual Christmas sleepouts

Class Rep Training:

SSB: Class rep guides, helping class reps know what to do week on week, alongside the long-term things like Class hoodies and trips away. Also, to ask class reps to bring a report to college council etc. to keep track of what they have been doing week to week

SG: Needs to be accountability of class reps showing up.

EL: We have the system of missing two councils without apology deeming them dismissed.

SG: We need to link this with being able to touch base with reps and see why they're not showing up etc.

BM: We need to find out why they leave. Class Reps still organize bonding activities etc. without getting involved in SU events such as council.

AB: We need to find a balance between telling Class Reps on the social activities and the more nitty gritty academic issues

SG: Have been getting students who are really interested in the academic representation side of things.

BM: Council elections 2nd 3rd. Planning to go on bonding trip on weekend of 13th 14th. Potential location has been found in Dundalk, fully accessible and varied activities available. What do you all think?

EB: Team building events are often good in helping class reps to get to know each other

EL: Gold Coast Resorts in Dungarvan is a good shout

BM: What modules would you like in training

SG: Module on UCD governance/board structure. Motion writing and submission. Education on the UCDSU constitution and current mandates. Safe Talk/Safe Assist training. Lecture addressing/public speaking, with Christina

NT: Training of Union Council covers motions writing and submission

MP: Facilitation of consent/assault disclosure workshops at different levels are available.

N o D: glossary of terms used in university/academic language etc.

AB: Can be compiled into the guide, with different pages for faculty specifics

EB: People are really looking to improve their public speaking skills when asking about running for class reps

Unions Image:

BM: How are we doing?

SG: Great to see the momentum from the get go

EB: Great to see the sabbats out with students while also managing to do the 9-5 of their jobs

TM: In 99% of the lecture addresses, students have really appreciated the safety net that is the Union and that if they have any issues they can always come see us and get them solved.

Discussion of UCDSU affiliate groups pushed back to next meeting

Date of next meeting:

Monday the 24th of September

Council 8th of October

AOB:

SG: Student Union Newsletter?

AB: Would it be possible to get access to emails for SU emails?

BM: Can't get access unfortunately. Will work on making SU all student fortnightly email more interactive and engaging with students. Observer are more open to Union having our own part in the paper to cover our campaigns and issues.

SG: Focus of newsletter is to show what we've achieved and what our plans are.

MP: Like a summary of achievements

SG: For reputational purposes to show students what it is we do

BM: It's all about making it efficient as possible, using snippets from our longer documents etc. to build a showcase of our work

AB: Can we include highlights of college officers/exec activities into the all student emails if something major is achieved?

TeMa: Can we make sure that mandates and campaigns re also highlighted?

BM: Sounds like great idea.

Meeting Closes 8:30

