

Union Council 3 minutes

Name	Constituency	Initials
Barry Murphy	President	BM
Melissia Plunkett	Welfare	MP
Thomas Monaghan	C&C	TM
Stephen Crosby	Education	SC
Niall Torris	Graduate	NT
Niamh Plunkett	3rd and 4th year biomedical, health and life sciences.	NP
Sadhbh O'Flaherty	Mental Health Co- ordinator	SOF
Edward Leonard	Law College Officer	EL
Niall Donoghue	Eng and Arch College Officer	ND
Charlie Lyons	Stage one Classic, Art History and Archaeology class rep	CL
Rachel Duffy	Chair of Council	Chair
Molly Garvin	Stage one Medicine	MG
Colm Maher	Economics Stage One Rep	CM
Katie Leigh Farrell		KLF
Alex Bolster	Business College Officer	AB
Jess walsh	Science Stage 4 class rep	JW
Una Carroll	Disabilities Coordinator	UC
Megan Cassidy		MC
Treasa	Irish Officer	TRM
Ailbhe archer	Science Stage one Class rep	AA
Maeve cunningham;	Stage one commerce international	MC

Kate murphy	Stage one radiography	KM
George Merrin	Stager four Science	GM
Katie o'dea	Environmental Coordinator	KOD
Mirijia Vaskyte	Stage one History	MV
Emily Bollard	Science College Officer	EB
Aoibhs Magills	Health Science College Officer	AM
Sophie Sheridan Burnes	Arts and social science College Officer	SSB
Sophie Gibbons	Arts and social science College Officer	SG
Gary Mahon	Stage one Science	GAM
Conor Flannery	Stage three engineering	CF
Phelan Hendricken	Stage One Drama	PH
Arisha Ali	Stage one engineering	AA
Aoife Walker	Stage one Science	AW
Aoife Braken	Stage one Stage 2 politics	AOB
Ava Folker	Stage four Nursing	AF
Niamh Scully	LGBTQ+ Coordinator	NS

Council 2 Minutes approved

Motions on Notice

(A.1) Awareness around Immigration Appointments Motion

Council Notes: That the wellbeing of international students is important.

Council Further Notes: That many international students who are from non-EEA countries are facing undue stress trying to book an appointment with the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service (INIS) which can negatively impact their mental health, academic performance and financial situation.

Council Acknowledges: That there is a lack of awareness within UCD surrounding the

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stresses and obstacles international students are experiencing in relation to trying to book an appointment with INIS.

Council Believes: That the Student's Union, being the representative body for all UCD students, should help raise awareness around the issue of booking INIS appointments.

Council Mandates: That the President write and publish an open letter to the Minister of Justice

and Equality which includes;

- 1) Highlighting the undue stresses facing international students at UCD regarding INIS appointments.
- 2) Highlighting the value international students have to UCD and to Ireland
- 3) Calling for greater improvements to be made to the current system
- 4) Calling for an increase in resources to the GNIB/INIS

Council Further Mandates: That the President write this letter in conjunction with the International Students Coordinator.

Proposed by: Andrew Grossen (International Students Co-ordinator)

Seconded by: Robert Smith (Doctorates - College of Human Sciences)

Discussion:

- AG: There has been a crisis brewing for a few years in relation to immigration appointments for international students. This year many issues as students had difficulty to book as they switched to online booking service 2 years ago, due to lack of resources and a bad infrastructure system, this system is not fit for purpose. It is very difficult to book. Some students began book in September and they still don't have an appointment. He acknowledges that the SU cannot fix this but they can raise awareness to this issue. This is something which effects every constituency within the Union.
- BM : Suggests an amendment to the motion – that Welfare officer can work with International co-ordinator to help students handle the stress from this issue.
- CL: There is a student on his course cannot get an appointment, will she be deported?
- AG: no, she won't. Put her in contact with me and I can give her advice.
- NT: graduate student deliver teaching hours – invigilators, feedback, grading of papers etc. Student visas mean that they can only be paid up to 20 hours however, they cannot do it without INS card. Severe effect on their income and to on their ability to study here.

Addition : Welfare officer will work with the international Co-ordinator on this Motion.

Motion Passed.

(A.2) UCDSU to support campaign for abortion access in Northern Ireland

Council notes: The Student's Union has always been a committed and vocal supporter of various campaigns to repeal the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution.

Council recognises: That the commitment to this cause was reinforced when a large majority

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of the student body voted to keep UCDSU's pro-choice mandate in the recent referendum held in Semester 1 of the academic year 2016/2017.

Council also recognises: That the Irish public voted in favour of repealing the 8th amendment to allow abortion access by 66.4%.

Council acknowledges: That the inability to access abortion services and the lack of reproductive rights in the Island of Ireland affects not only those who identify as women but all those who are female assigned at birth.

Council therefore mandates: That UCDSU continue to actively campaign in favour of a person's right to choose and for access to abortion services to be available for those in Northern Ireland.

Council further mandates: That UCDSU engages with NUS-USI, the main student representation organisation in Northern Ireland, in order to achieve access to abortion for all who live on the Island of Ireland and that it shall be the responsibility of the President, the Welfare Officer and the Gender Equality Campaign Co-ordinator to do so.

Council notes: That every member of UCDSU shall be entitled to the right to conscientious objection, and no member morally opposed shall be forced to engage in active campaigning but that right shall not supersede the obligations bestowed on the Union Executive to uphold the mandate given to them by the students of UCD.

Proposed by: Niamh Plunkett (Stage 3 & 4 Biomedical Health & Life Sciences Class Representative)

Seconded by: Stephen Crosby (Education Officer)

NP:

- Follow on from last year's abortion. The language of the motion is gender neutral. As always, every member of the SU has the right to conscientious objection. You can bow out of the mandate if you want but someone else has to take on the task. We have been a Pro-choice union since the 80's has been kept by the exec for the majority of the past few years well except from last year.
- BM: on council further mandates section this is a campaign, should it not be on the C&C Officer?
- SC: the aim is that the gender equality co-ordinator would run it alongside the welfare Officer and president under the general help of the C&C Officer.
- BM: Constitutionally Tom is responsible for all campaigns so C&C should be included.

Motion Amended : To include the C&C officer in the council further mandates section.

Motion passed.

a. **Motions not on notice.**

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None

b. Items for Discussion.

(C.1) The role of the Residences Co-ordinator.

SOF speaking on behalf of Christine Brown (Former Res-coordinator)

The role of the res co-ordinator has always been quite a strange one, the section of the UCD population which you seek to represent have only one thing in common, they all happened to place highly enough on the waiting list that they can stay in on campus accommodation. This presents the role with a number of challenges. Constitutionally one of the main functions of the residences Co-ordinator is to facilitate a sense of community within the residences however, this section of the role is pretty redundant as there is already a subsection of UCD residences which is entitled 'Reslife' they organise an abundance of events and trips throughout the year including everything from trips to ikea at the start of semester to kit out your new apartment to Christmas fairs!

Several of the sabbatical teams throughout the years have tried unsuccessfully to get a seat on Res Review for the Residences Co-ordinator, even the idea of a non-voting, observational seat was shot down. This is where the majority of issues relating to residences are discussed and while we are fortunate to have two sabbatical officers sitting on this, this leaves little scope for the residences Co-Ordinator to get involved with these issues as they do not have the ability or appropriate channels to directly contact the people who they need to.

There is never a guarantee that the residences coordinator will even be living on res for their term, unless they have a secondary means of getting the accommodation such as being a member of the Irish House, it is down to pure luck if they will even be living on residences. I myself have lived on res for 2 out of my 3 years in UCD and now in my masters year I wasn't given a place. This can make it much more difficult to engage with the students who live on res and their concerns. For example, I wasn't aware of the complaints in relation to the building works noise and the petition that followed.

Since I have gotten involved in the union the role of residences co-ordinator been seen often as the easy campaign co-ordinator role but I don't really believe in this. Having sat in this role I can assure you that it is a broken one, with little scope to make any real change we are merely trying to full fill constitutionally requirements, but at what expense? UCD residences is far from perfect and there are many issues which need to be challenged and addressed, it is my opinion that it is much more suitable for a full time sabbatical officer to engage with this instead of a full time student. It is my opinion that this role should be abolished and replaced instead with something which would benefit the students of ucd more. (Need to shorten this for the minutes)

EL: I think its very important that for the 3500 that they have a voice, even if they can only do it through a limited degree. If you remove more work onto sabbats they might not be able to do the work. No sport and soc co-ords but people want the res role

Aoife bracken : lived there two years until this year did know there was a res coordinator.

Thought our closest connection to res was the RA's. live in roebuck, role not publicised.

Emily: if you want to keep it, it needs support. Students need to know more about it, with the new residences etc. it needs to be highly supported

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Barry: in several years we will have many more students living on campus and they should be represented. I believe there is more scope to the role than just res review. From knocking on doors we found other issues. Sabbats should support more.

KLF: would it not be more beneficial for the coordinator to be elected from res, students know in June that they are living on campus, we should elect the res cords from people who are living on res.

SOF : (own point) we should make a constitutional change to make role include accommodation in general. Acknowledges accommodation officer. More scope for national campaigns such as raise the roof.

TM: this is tough because there is lots of scope and leeway for res coordinator. It is difficult to foster sense of community. Reslife have lots of events but have a low turnout. The best event is the carnival. On that note maybe for next year's team there should be specialised training for each campaign coordinator in relation to their role – how to run campaigns in relation to their role

EL: it's a lot for a full time student to deal with landlords. To deal with large landlords who don't care about student issue

NP: landlords can have lots of tenants, likes the idea of housing campaign coordinator. And work alongside the accommodation officer. Other cords deal with big issues

AG: A lack of awareness of position, international office didn't know about the international co-ord. next year need to make a bigger effort to make campaign co-ordinators need to be shown to UCD community. Concern of where res can fit in.

CM: winging it should have a brief outline of coordinator roles. To let students know that they exist. Could help students fix issues, easily accessed then asking a whole bunch of people.

AG: no tab on the website for campaign cords. CO and sabbats included. Absolutely none for coordinators.

MG: people might have issues but don't feel like they need to take it all the way up to the sabbats. Res coordinator could be seen as a middle man that fills into a bigger system. People won't go to the president with small scale issues. Freshers week people know the sabbatical officers, but they don't even know that there is a gender equality officer.

BM: I think this is making the best of the situation that you have, Andrew (International Co-ordinator) going to coffee mornings relating to internationals, Res Co-ordinator should attend reslife meetings. Just because it's difficult to create a foster community doesn't mean it's impossible.

TM: In relation to highlighting campaign co-ordinators about the campus, winging it and Facebook were both used however, we only have a certain reach, people know sabbats through the deans welcomes. Campaign coordinators have a responsibility to make themselves known around campus. Mental health Co-ordinator as an example could be going up to large groups of people and making themselves known

GM: In relation to Barry's point if you are res coordinator and you don't live on res you can't go the events

Emily: you'd be surprised how often people use the website - library shop opening hours. CO info not updated on website either

Chair: Discussion is veering from the original topic, any other opinion? Moved on

(C.2) Issues surrounding Dublin Bus skipping the UCD bus Stop

The problem is especially conspicuous at late evenings when students are trying to get back home after attending sports clubs or societies' activities. The buses which students wait for just skip the bus stops (from my own experience, I know that the bus stop 768 is being skipped at nights very often). It may be because the bus drivers do not want to let in drunk students, but other students still need to go back home. It not only makes struggles with getting back (if it is very late and the buses skip the bus stops, some students might not even return home), but also waiting for a bus that will not skip the stop takes a lot of time which some would spend for studying. Moreover, because of this many students have to take taxis costing over 20 Euros which definitely does not save up their money.

Mirija Vaskyte (Stage 1, History)

MV: there is a problem with the bus stops at ucd as they are skipped late at night after 10pm, when people are trying to get home. Bus drivers do not want to let in drunk students and then student who have not been drinking have to get a taxi .

NT: you are right drivers don't want to pick up drunk students, has a negative impact on students. In 2011 during student fees protests, unrest on campus, attempt made to tip over a Dublin bus. This is not the first time this has come up at union, this is the narrative that came back. Not that I think that it is what is going to happen again. But this is how they can get away with it. Personally I don't agree with in

GAM: I emailed Dublin bus, 2009 post on boards about buses skipping the stop 2011 is not the incidence. Unions behind. Said they would take it to the council

PH: no problem during the day, all happens just after dark. Semi state company using ucd as a bus depot. Ucd should have a stronger voice to follow

Name Missing: can understand why bus drivers don't want to stop. Wants pulse security to get rid of the most rowdy students and then everyone else can get on.

AA: understand not letting people on after ten, sometimes 8 o'clock bus skips, can deter people from doing extracurriculars.

AW: an issue for science students who commute with labs and late classes. These are a part of their degree and they need to be there. Drivers skipping not okay

NP: Discussed at last council of last year, it is an ongoing issue, as is issue of student drinking with Dublin bus, as we get later in semester more people studying. We need reasonable suggestions for the union

SG: Security is a fantastic plan. Communication Dublin Bus, estates and union. Will have to hire more security. Security want them off the campus, for estates this needs to be a student welfare issue. Drunk students can be a danger to each other and themselves. Would it be a good idea to contact estates

Lisa archaeology stage 2: bouncers and putting people places isn't going to work because they need to go places, that is why they are getting the buses in the first place.

CF: knows people who don't go to flyover at certain time. Believes there is a sign that means that buses should skip the students. Compounding problems

MG: tendency to disregard the drunk students I have been both the drunk and the sober one. Some people when they are drunk are often quiet for bus drivers. Students can often decide to walk along the N11 which is very unsafe and if a bus had let them on it wouldn't be an issue. Trying to walk is not a safe alternative

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UC: walking the n11 is terrifying. As a union can we do anything in relation to coaches?
Discounted rates by booking through the union in several hours in advance. People are safe, coaches make money and union looks good

TRM: in theory good, however, bus companies don't want drunk students in transit on a given night, don't want to be liable.

AOB: having lived on res, 10 o'clock legging out the door to make the 10 o'clock bus. Drunk students quickly multiply. Build-up of drunk students, skipping it just increases the problem.

BM: the fact that the attempt to tip the bus was unsuccessful is in our favour. Increased security. Estates don't want drunk people on campus. Tom, we could promote different ways to get to town, lobbying estates, lobbying Dublin bus. Party buses: someone fell and banged their head therefore ucd banned it.

GAM: in NUIG, there is a shuttle bus that runs from their accommodation to town by their college

NT: no its not....

Chair : Niall you are out of order

AF: mystery tour last year. Not allowed alcohol. Buses would not work.

AB: used 3 party buses last year, they worked really well, shuttle bus, we organise one for the rds., why can't we do this? There would be great up take and it is reasonable value. No harm in piloting it for refreshers week and see how it goes.

DOT: I presume other colleges have a problem similar, how have they addressed this? Or are they just ignoring the problem? Could we get support from their union.

BM: I can talk to the SU at trinity and DCU, the only issue is that they can walk to town and their student bar does more student deals.

Standing orders raised to present Health science officer report

Report approved.

Items for Approving

Campaign Co-ordinator reports

International Student CO.

AG:

- Role not publicised
 - o Fb page and twitter – good engagement
 - o Focus on issue with INS
- Attends immigration info sessions
- Attended 2 protests at GNIB - good to have a physical evidence.
- Article for observer re this issue
- Built relationship with global lounge and international office
- In a month or two, sparco funding.. Dublin in December

Approved

Mature : Tom talking on her behalf

- Fresher week
- Blog for mature students society
- Launch of community mentor programme at trinity
- Access leader

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- Spoke to new night access students
- Period poverty campaign
- Wants to make people aware of the role – announced in soc email
- Wants to promote ALL centre
Plans
- Outreach
- Family fun day... outdoor activities
- More cohesion between mature students
- Wants to help mature students get involved with the social side of students and to the SU.

NP: Were these reports circulated?

They will be.

APPROVED.

Disability Co-ordinator Report

UC:

- Met with Amy Hassett
- Edi sub group
- Amazing seminars with disability rights
- Set up crew
- Phd students who are working with disability Rights - more to do next semester
- Worked with access centre - liaison between students and Su and them

Approved

Mental Health CO:

SOF:

- Meetings with Tom and Melissa
- Sat on mental health week university board – combined SU mental health week events with the university's one
- Coffee mornings during mental health week in each building

Future plans:

- Sweets and chocolates on concourse to boost morals.
- Apology: due to personal reasons didn't accomplish everything however plans have only been postponed not cancelled.

Approved

LGBTQ+ CO

NS

- Recently elected
- Campaign crew - meeting on Thursday 1-2 in the SU boardroom
- Liaised with auditor of LGBTQ+ going to collaborate them.
- Want to run some workshops
- Spoke to Barry and Melissa about trans inclusion training for ucd staff
- GCM supplied in campus – magazine, will be distributed around the college.
- Will make her plans for semester 2

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APPROVED

Environmental CO

KOD

- Green squad – has met them and discussed ideas
- Social media – wants to use this to promote what she is doing, 5000 likes on fb and had a successful comp.
- Climate action now rally - other students and posters
- Put together a social media team - follow us on twitter, Instagram and fb.
- Irish room: bought mugs there and they no longer use disposable cups.
- Carpool karaoke filming is done and now it is being edited. Similar competition to last year
- Looking at ag recycling: they have the bins already, have put together a survey about motivation of students to recycle.
- Climate case Ireland - group of people taking a case against the gov. for missing their targets in 2020. In the Netherlands this was successful. Wants to hold an event to publicise the court case.
- Environmental week next sem.
- Keeping records for next year's environmental coordinator.

TM: congrats on eco UCD and the comp. go and follow AG and KOD Pages

KOD Thanks tom

Approved

Exec Reports

NT:

- Casework – longstanding cases that are coming to a close. One since last November, significant time commitment
- Seanad campaign - interview with Sen. McDowell, good successful interview
- Waiting on edited video to roll out campaign
- No podcast this week
- INS payments
- Reviewing QQI guideline and meeting Ashling O'Grady
- Graduate show – panellists is full, can reach him on email.

Approved

SC:

- Veterinary board - vet soc are great as they give great insight to what is actually happening
- Attended class rep training - good engagement
- Met with dean of architecture - upfront cost of international trip, will give the average cost of the trips in the handbook for the architecture students. Hardware intensive, if you don't have a good laptop it won't work.
- Contacted AC members – will send on doc shortly, will have briefing session soon
- Exam regulation meeting - being redrafted to make it easier for students - exams do's and don't
- Bill: meeting with Barry and Melissa.

Approved.

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TM:

- Bingo loco went ahead, we didn't get the numbers we wanted but people loved it. Week 7 too hectic of a time.
- Consultation workshop – proposed redevelopment of student service
- Final years info on how the SU runs events
- Save our spark on fb other socials to follow once the graphics are read
- Ents meetings
- Read feedback for class rep training and it will be applied for next training
- Hoodies
- Class rep booklet
- Town hall meeting
- Res petitions
- Met with Campaign Co ordinators
- Drug awareness campaign.
- Attended EDI today
- Rolling out Save our spark – funding for third level education
- Promoting Christmas day
- Rise at the week
- Looking to collect more signatures.
- Debrief on bingo loco to see what we can do better, maybe we could do it for RAG

MG: why was Thursday chosen to run class rep training ?

NT: Joannas availability.

Lisa archaeology stage two: Why weren't cc reports circulated?

NP: is there a reason that we weren't circulated the policy book

BM: will send it in the morning.

Barry's report:

- Will send out email with campaigns contacts
- Lots of emails about res complaints, went door to door
- Townhall meeting – since then space opened for studying close to roebuck.
- Constantly monitoring the noise at night, university know that they have done wrong and are a bit worried.
- Have it in writing that they will tell perspective students about the construction
- It stops now campaign - sexual assault on campus, standing in solidarity throughout the campus
- Bar committee: sports, socs and SU have gotten money back from the bar, pays for acts and gigs.
- Open day with Stephen and Melissia. Good opportunity to talk to perspective students

Coming up

: - sex education bill, with Stephen Melissa and Christina

Met registrar about students who are in direct provision

DOT: is it possible for you to circulate a copy of the budget to know where the money comes from and goes?

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Bm: we get money that is divided between socs sports and us and we fund part of the union through the shops. Once its approved by the board then it is approved by the council. Was not done well last year, looking to improve this, this year.

Melissa's report

Bm: she can't be here tonight as she is at a meeting in relation to five direct provision students who live in Clondalkin and they are UCD students.

- Planning a self-care events towards the end of the semester like mini mbs
- Working on direct provision
- Random act of kindness – has had a positive response to this
- Lots of student cases.

Approved

SG REPORT:

Taken as read

Niamh : what is the sparac project

Sg: it is a programme where staff and students work together and Sophie Sheridan and I have put in one with social science have got funding looking to do an environmental campaign.

Approved

SSB:

Taken as read

Approved

AB report:

BM: How is the soccer going and how to get involved?

Ab: going well, sponsored by the FAI, six weeks semester one 6 weeks semester two just come down to the Astra pitches 6-8 pm on a Tuesday. You don't have to be great it is really just for a bit of run

TM: are teams made already

AB: team made on people who signed up, but with midterms last week we just had to make do, we slot in people for people who are missing

Approved

EL Report

ED: taken as read

Approved

ND Report:

Thanks Conor Flannery what I wish I knew and one for elect. Reminder blood bank in Astra hall until Thursday. 11-2.30

MG: Is there anything we can do to help if we cant give

SC: to help you can share it on Facebook etc

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EB report:

No more seating will be added to science, sorry I tried my best.

Approved

TRM: :

La Na Gaeilge 14th November, mindfulness and treasure hunt don't have to be fluent to participate.

Soarcha oconnell: where can we find out what's on?

TRM: I will post it in the facebook page

Approved

Ag and Ve report - officer absentt:

Bm: AFV: Has Amy contact you ?

No

Emily Gallagher politics and international relations Stage one: At 5 pm I became aware of the bi elections, nobody was aware of them?

TM: promoted it on the FB and snapchat

Chair: was mentioned at last council

Lisa Murnane : was the first time it was mentioned today

TM : no

AOB : 2 people ran and one member was contacted late last night to say the other person had dropped out

Chair: that is an issue with the returning office, which is separate to the exec?

BM: We need to make a special effort to include the people who were elected to the SU in the bi election

NP: the next council is scheduled for next semester this would stretch the constitutional mandate. There was no warning at the last council that this would be our last one

BM: issues with quorum in final few weeks of college. On the 19th we would not have a formal council instead talk about constitutional changes, issues with the mental health service etc. it would not be mandatory. And it would be followed by a night out. This time last year we had three council semester one and five in semester 2 this is the same as last year.

NT: the importance thing is that in replace of council we would be having a town hall styled meeting

NP: constitution 3 weeks in TERM time. My main problem is that I cant place motions in now as it is too late

EL: Council is council. Not a townhall meeting. If we are mandated to be here every three

Jess walsh : I'm finding that as the year goes on things are getting crazier, students in science are dropping out. I had thought that I had another council to put a motion in about this

AB: I do agree with eh whole rule is rules. Fair point if it isn't going to be quorate, we might not be able to go ahead then it's a waste of time

Soarcha O'Connell: do a poll?

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MG: have been told since day one that we would have three councils , I was aware that this was going to be our last council.

Bm: I understand Niamh and jess. A motion is a mandate which makes us do something however, we are more than happy to begin working with you o these issues this semester and then making them a motion in semester 2.

BM: I will make a poll in the facebook page

EB: for new reps elected add them to the fb page

Sg: who's job is it to do the su website?

Bm: under the roles c&c without website training it's impossible. We have hired a staff member which we are now training to make proper changes,

Sg: Acknowledges that it is difficult but we have been talking about this for a long time

SC: it is using a specific script, if you mess with one thing you can crash the whole system.

Sg: can't we just get a random computer science student to do it?

UC: no cords page on the website, exclusionary,

NP: I understand that you didn't have a staff member but you were mandated last year, for president and c and c to fix over summer. This is why I take mandates seriously its November and it still isn't done.

TM: we put in an intense training course over the summer, for me to be trained in the programme is too difficult and unrealistic

Np: I agree it's unrealistic for you to be trained in it but you should have gotten someone else to do it

BM: I acknowledge that we messed up. But hiring is difficult at the moment people come for a few months at a time.

SOF: Can you outsource it? Just as a once off?

Charities for the year:

BM: I will email you a list of four or five charities and their info for rag we will be doing darkness into light

For poll: Poll will open and close a week apart

Meeting closes