

The National Council of the Union of Students in Ireland

Minutes

National Council USI, NC 58.5
Institute of Technology, Sligo
09 December, 2017

Chairperson: Richard Hammond
Deputy Chairperson: Chris Newell

NAMES APPEARING ON THE ATTENDANCE LIST:

(No liability and/or reproach accepted for difficulties deciphering manuscript notations)

QUBSU

Jessica Elder

IADTSU

Andrew Martin

Helen Moynihan

Sorcha Carey

LITSU

Philip Desmond

Gavin Farrell

Aisling McRory

TCDSU

Kevin Keane

Jonah Craig

Damien McClean

STACSSU

Aoife Deasy

Marie Lyons

NUIGSU

Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh

Andrew Forde

Megan Reilly

MSU

Leon Diop

Darragh Moran

Niamh Halpenny

GMITSU

Mark O'Brien

AITSU

Katie O' Riordain

Donna Mulkerrins

Oisín Moloughney

ITSSU

Barra Ó Clochasaigh

Vanessa Molloy

Laura Muldoon

DCUSU

Matt Davey

UCCSU

Kelly Coyle

Anna Heverin

ITTDSU

Isabelle Delaney Jones

Jason Kavanagh

Jamie McMahon

DITSU

Boni Odoemene

Pierre Yimbog

Róisín O' Donovan

ITBSU

Conor Dempsey

Kris Sulkowski

Hayley Keogh

LYITSU

Mary O'Shea

Paul Lynch

CCSU

Adam Clarke

CITSU

Stephanie Fogarty

ITCSU

Lorna Fitzpatrick

Naomi McGuire

ITTSU

Shaun Walsh

Sean Darcy

Jessica Murphy

Saoirse Quinn

Bord na nOifigeach, AMLÉ

Mike Kerrigan, President

Síona Cahill, Deputy President / Vice President for Equality and Citizenship

Amy Kelly, VP Campaigns

Oisín Hassan, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Níamh Murtagh, Vice President for Welfare

Jimmy McGovern, Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region

Aisling Cusack, Vice President for the Dublin Region

Michelle Byrne, Vice President for the Southern Region

Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha, Vice President for the Irish Language/Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge

Olivia Potter-Hughes, VP for the Northern Region

NAMES FOR WHOM APOLOGIES WERE OFFERED TO THE MEETING:

Shauna Ní Chruadhlaich, LITSU; Ciara Smyth, LITSU; Michael O'Connell, LITSU; Desmond Fahey, LITSU; Alice MacPherson, TCDSU; Una Harty, TCDSU; Daniel Gallagher, LYITSU; Aaron Burke, GMITSU; Emma Louise Duffy, GMITSU; Liam Deasy, GMITSU; Niall Behan, DCUSU; Podge Henry, DCUSU; Siobhán McTague, DCUSU; Brendan Power,

DCUSU; Martin Scally, UCCSU; Seán Ó Riabhaigh, UCCSU; Tadhg Casey, UCCSU; Barry O'Shea, UCCSU; Ben Dunlea, UCCSU

1. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting (3^ú Samhain 2017, Trinity College Dublin) were proposed by Carlow College Students' Union, seconded by GMITSU and **passed without objection.**

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Pre-Nominated Any Other Business

Repeal the 8th Exhibition – NCADSU

Special National Council – USI President

4. Media Report

The Media Report was circulated prior to the meeting.

5. Officer Reports

The Vice President for the Northern Region had nothing to add to her report.
There were no questions.

An Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge / The Vice President for the Irish Language
had nothing to add to her report.
There were no questions.

The Vice President for the Dublin Region presented her report and highlighted that IT Tallaght SU had recently reaffirmed their membership of USI with 97.8% of voters choosing to remain affiliated to USI. A referendum on the union's pro-choice status was passed by 82%.

The Vice President for the Southern Region had nothing to add to her report.
IT Carlow SU sought an update on FE students' unions.

The Vice President for the Southern Region noted that work is ongoing, but progress is being made.

The Vice President for the BMW Region presented his report and added that he has met with GTI and has been invited to attend the next meeting of their Student Council.

The Vice President for Campaigns had nothing to add to her report.

IT Carlow SU asked for an update on Activist Training.

The Vice President for Campaigns noted that the training would include trainers from USI, Amnesty and Repeal the 8th.

The Vice President for Welfare had nothing to add to her report.

IT Carlow SU enquired if ASRA is recognised in Ireland.

The Vice President for Welfare noted that it is a recognised brand in UK and Ireland, and is developing its network in Ireland.

CITSU sought an update on Chemsex Training.

The Vice President for Welfare noted that she is working with Aids West and others to provide training.

DITSU Asked how MOs were chosen for the launches of SHAG and Chats4Change.

The Vice President for Welfare noted that an application form was circulated and MOs were chosen based on dates and availability to facilitate.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs presented his report. He added that the Postgraduate Network is due to meet in January and the Postgraduate Symposium is scheduled for early February.

DITSU enquired about USI's aims on the QQI Forum.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs replied that USI's agenda will be based on its policies. He added that the forum is primarily a networking opportunity.

LITSU asked if there is a lack of mandate and asked why USI has not been more involved.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs noted that USI should have been involved in the past, but for reasons unknown had chosen not to be. He highlighted the potential to build links with FEs and international students through the forum.

LITSU thanked the Vice President for Academic Affairs for his work at the recent ESU Board Meeting in building the reputation of the national union. LITSU also asked how National Council could have more involvement in international affairs.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs noted that he had tried to establish a committee, but it had not been successful. He further noted that the application process for events has worked well.

IT Carlow SU asked for a copy of the proposal paper for NStep partners.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs provided an overview of what was included.

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President presented her report as read.

QUBSU sought further information on FemFest.

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President noted that the event is being organised by the National Women's Council and will focus on empowerment and feminism.

GMITSU asked for an update on Headstuff

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President noted that Headstuff brings together podcasts on Mental Health, Wellbeing etc.

The President presented his report as read.

He thanked the Danish national students' union for their cooperation on ESU.

TCDSU asked if it was possible to prepare a digest of Officer Reports.

The President noted that the newsletter exists for that purpose, but committed to adding more details from officer reports to it.

QUBSU asked for further information on the Future of Europe event.

The President noted that the event focused on the future of Ireland in Europe and did not deal with Brexit.

LITSU asked for information on the FE Festival and asked how USI is supporting FEs.

The President noted that NUS-USI is organising the FE Festival for student officers in FEs. He further noted that USI is working with FEs to develop students' unions.

6. Items for Agreement

6(b) ASRA

The Vice President for Welfare presented the proposal as circulated to MOs.

The Vice President for Welfare proposed the motion which was seconded by LITSU and **was passed without objection.**

6(c) Disability Conference

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President presented the proposal as circulated.

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President proposed the motion which was seconded by GMITSU and **was passed without objection.**

6(d) Class Rep Accreditation

The VP for Academic Affairs presented the proposal as circulated.

The VP for Academic Affairs proposed the motion which was seconded by NUI Galway SU and **was passed without objection.**

6(e) Minutes from National Council

IT Carlow proposed an amendment to the motion which was circulated. The amendment changes the time requirement from five working days to ten working days.

IT Carlow SU proposed the motion which was seconded by AITSU and **was passed without objection.**

6(f) USI Board of Trustees

The President noted that there are currently four USI trustees, but added that there is some ambiguity regarding the dates of their appointment.

The proposal to reaffirm the membership of the Board of Trustees would clarify the membership of the Board.

The motion was proposed by the President, seconded by GMITSU and **was passed without objection.**

7. Items for Discussion

7(a) Possible General Election

The President noted the item had been included on the agenda when a pre-Christmas election seemed likely. He highlighted the importance of being prepared for a general election.

LITSU asked if Make a Smart Vote.ie would be in place for the next general election. The President noted the site is ready, but requires information from parties and candidates on their position on certain issues.

7(b) ESU BM 73

The Vice President for Academic Affairs presented an outline of the recent ESU BM 73. He thanked the National Council representatives for their participation and engagement at the event.

7(c) Video Doc

The Vice President for Welfare outlined plans for an online doctor consultation service which is due to be launched at the end of January. The service will be available to USI members only.

8. Items for Information

8(a) Housing and Homelessness Coalition

The VP for Campaigns noted that the Housing and Homelessness Coalition is launching a policy on Monday. She also noted that a national day of action is being planned.

8(b) Irish Language Education Survey

An Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge highlighted the lack of available data on students' attitudes to the Irish language. She outlined plans to launch a survey in the coming weeks.

8(c) Dear First Year Me

The VP for Campaigns outlined plans for the compilation of letters in book form to include advice to first year students on health and wellbeing.

8(d) Workers' Rights Christmas Campaign

The VP for Campaigns noted that an event to highlight workers' rights will take place at 5:00pm on Wednesday which will be available on Facebook Live.

8(e) Together Moving Forward Campaign

The VP for Campaigns noted that funding has been secured for four training sessions. She encouraged MOs to contact her if they wished to host the sessions.

8(g) #WomenLead18 - January

The VP for Equality & Citizenship outlined plans for WomenLead18. She encouraged MOs to participate and support.

8(h) Students for Choice – Activist Think-In

The VP for Equality & Citizenship outlined plans for an Activist Think-In scheduled for 9th February to plan for the expected Repeal the 8th referendum. She encouraged collaboration from interested parties.

8(i) Collaboration on Motions – Congress 2018

The President outlined plans for a meeting to facilitate collaboration on congress motions to efficiently manage the submission of motions and avoid duplication.

8(j) USI Elections

The Chairperson outlined the schedule for USI Elections. He noted the importance of adhering to the necessary criteria to ensure nominations were valid.

9. Election of the Irish Language Taskforce

Nominations for the Irish Language Taskforce were sought from each region.
The nominations were:

Southern Region

Philip Desmond LITSU
Aisling McRory, LITSU
Seán O’Raibgaigh, UCCSU

Dublin Region

Helen Moynihan, IADTSU
Matt Davey, DCUSU
Kevin Keane, TCDSU

Northern Region

Grian Ní Dhaimhín, QUBSU
Kevin McStravock, UUSU
Maggie Hagan, QUBSU

BMW Region

Emma Louise Duffy, GMITSU
Kevin Rochelle, MSU
Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh, NUIGSU
Darragh Moran, MSU
Barry Clohessy, ITSSU
Aoife Deasy, STACSSU

It was proposed to appoint all nominees to the Irish Language Taskforce and was **passed without objection.**

10. A.O.B.

Repeal Exhibition

IADTSU noted that a Repeal Exhibition will take place in IADTSU which will be open to all students.

Further information will be circulated via email.

Special National Council

The President noted that a Special National Council has been called for 19th December.

The Chairperson outlined the resolutions which will be proposed on the day.

The President encouraged MOs to attend.

16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence

The VP for the Northern Region noted that the 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls is currently underway. The campaign runs every year from 25th of November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to the 10th December, Human Rights Day.

She encouraged MOs to support the campaign.

Pink Training

The VP for Equality & Citizenship thanked NUIGSU and GigSoc for hosting Pink Training.

The President thanked IT Sligo Students' Union for hosting National Council and wished everybody a happy Christmas.