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  Oisin 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 Chruadhlaioch, 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,
1. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting (3rd 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
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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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