

STACS

Aoife Deasy

TCDSU

Alice MacPherson

Damien McClean

Kevin Keane

UCCSU

Barry O'Shea

Seán O'Raibgaigh

Anna Heverin

WITSU

Celine Casey

Michael Murphy

DCUSU

Callaghan Commons

Emilio Williams Doran

ITTDSU

Isabelle Delaney Jones

Jason Kavanagh

Jamie McMahon

CCSU

2 illegible names

Bord na nOifigeach, AMLÉ

Síona Cahill, Vice President for Equality and Citizenship

Oisín Hassan, Deputy President and 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

NAMES FOR WHOM APOLOGIES WERE OFFERED TO THE MEETING:

Michael Kerrigan, President; Amy Kelly, Vice President for Campaigns; Olivia Potter-Hughes, Vice President for the Northern Region; Martin Scally, UCCSU; Tadhg Casey, UCCSU; Kelly Coyle, UCCSU; Ben Dunlea, UCCSU; Sorcha Carey, IADTSU; Marie Sheedy, WITSU; Úna Harty, TCDSU; Jonah Craig, TCDSU; Hayley Keogh, ITBSU; Daniel Gallagher, LYITSU; Stephanie Fogarty, CITSU; Shauna Ní Cruadhlaoch, LUTSU; Michael O'Connell, LITSU; Liam Deasy, GMITSU; Marie Lyons, STACSSU

Preliminary Notes

The Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees.

She noted items 4(a) and 6(a) were deferred to the next National Council.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting (16 August, QUB) were proposed by GMITSU, seconded by ITSSU and **passed without objection.**

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Pre-Nominated Any Other Business

Carlow College SU noted the ongoing situation in Rohingya and proposed USI issues a statement.

5. Officer Reports

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 his report and added noted that it would not be possible to present to Dublin City Council on publicly funded education.

There were no questions.

The Vice President for the Southern Region had nothing to add to her report. UCCSU thanked her for her assistance during orientation.

The Vice President for the BMW Region presented his report. He added that Cavan County Council has accepted his request to make a presentation on publicly funded education at their next meeting. He noted the challenge of presenting at county council meetings due to the restriction most councils impose on the number of presentations at their meetings.

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

There were no questions.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs presented his report. He added that NStep training was ongoing and urged MOs to book before the deadline at the end of the month.

DITSU enquired about student representation in the FE Sector.

The VP for Academic Affairs noted that he is working on developing a student voice in the FE sector and is reviewing models in NUS Wales and NUS-USI.

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President presented her report as read. She also presented the reports of the President, Vice President for Campaigns and Vice President for the Northern Region.

There were no questions.

TCDSU congratulated the The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President for her leadership in the absence of the President.

6. Items for Information

6(b) March for Choice

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President presented an update on plans and logistics for the upcoming March for Choice.

She encouraged MOs to participate in the event.

6(c) J1 Visas

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President noted that USI is seeking funding from the US Embassy for an information campaign on J1 Visas.

6(d) ESC Wales

The VP for Academic Affairs presented an update on attendance at the European Student Convention in Wales.

He noted the next ESU Board Meeting is scheduled to take place in Jerusalem and encourages MOs to consider nominations for attendees.

6(e) Release of Ibrahim Halawa

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President congratulated National Council for their participation in the Release Ibrahim Halawa Campaign.

6(f) Nomination to the IFPA Board

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President noted that she had been nominated to the board of directors of the Irish Family Planning Association. Her nomination was recently ratified at the IFPA AGM.

7. Items for Agreement

7(a) Communication Strategy

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President presented the Communication Strategy as circulated to MOs.

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

7(b) National Council Streaming Policy

The Vice President for the BMW Region presented the National Council Streaming Policy as circulated to MOs.

The Vice President for the BMW Region proposed the National Council Streaming Policy which was seconded by WITSU and **was passed without objection.**

8. Items for Discussion

8(a) Coalition for Publicly Funded Education

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President formally announced that the Irish Second Level Students' Union has joined the Coalition for Publicly Funded Education and will participate in the national demonstration on 4th October.

A photocall to publicise the national demonstration will take place on Monday.

8(b) Postgraduate Network

The Vice President for Academic Affairs noted the importance of developing a Postgraduate Network. He added that the network should have a representative

function and highlighted the importance of members having a link or involvement with their own students' union.

Nominations to the network will be sought from MOs.

GMITSU enquired about the work of the network.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs noted the details would be included in a work plan. A postgraduate symposium will take place in January at which strategy will be developed.

STACSSU noted that many postgraduate courses are offered online which results in students having limited engagement with campus.

TCDSU asked if membership of the network will be continually updates.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs replied that the membership structure had not yet been defined and would be considered on an ongoing basis.

9. Any Other Business

Rohingya Human Rights Abuses

Carlow College Students' Union referred to the ongoing human rights abuses in Rohingya and proposed USI issue a statement condemning the actions of the Rohingya government.

It was noted that a policy on the issue would be required to issue a statement, which would have to be formally proposed at a National Council.

Carlow College Students' Union agreed to bring a formal proposal to the next meeting of National Council.

National Demonstration

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President stressed the importance of the upcoming National Demonstration and urged MOs to promote the event to their members.

Homez

WITSU noted that rental income generated via Homez, which might qualify for tax relief under the Rent a Room Scheme, was included as income for means testing purposes.

It was noted that some students were not aware of this.

GMITSU noted that the BTEA Reform Paper could include the issue.

Lillian Kerrigan RIP

National Council extended its condolences to the Kerrigan family for their recent loss. A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship / Deputy President thanked LITSU for hosting National Council over the previous two days.

The Chairperson thanked everybody for attending National Council and closed the meeting.