

The National Council of the Union of Students in Ireland

Minutes

National Council USI, NC 58.10

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology

15th June, 2018

Chairperson: **Richard Hammond**

Deputy Chairperson: **Cathy Pembroke**

NAMES APPEARING ON THE ATTENDANCE LIST:

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

AITSU

Oisín Moloughney

Catherine Power

Katie O’Riordan

Aine Daly

CCSU

Adam Clarke

Ryan Shannon

Adam Kane

Agnita Kenny

Amanda Bowes

Jack Phelan

DCUSU

Craig McHugh

Vito Moloney Burke

Callaghan Commons

Siobhan McTague

DITSU

Pierre Yimbog

Rebecca Gorman

Diarmuid Cleary

Róisín O’ Donovan

DKITSU

Aaron Geagan

Maria Maguire

GMITSU

Aaron Burke

Gary Tobin

Emma-Louise Duffy

Victor O’Loughlin

IADTSU

Helen Moynihan

Grace Latham

Niamh Grennan

Sorcha Carey

ITBSU

Kris Sulkowski

Luke Daly

Kayode Adebisin

ITCSU

Aoife Duff

Roisín Sheridan

Richard Morrell

Naomi McGuire

Ronan Larkin

Alyson McFadden

Erica Cunningham

ITSSU

Barry Clohessy
Tara Ní Raghallaigh

Vanessa Molloy

Laura Muldoon

ITTDSU

Jason Kavanagh
Amy Keatinge

Jamie McMahon
Lee Bennett

Isabelle Delaney Jones
Megan O'Neill

ITTSU

Sean Darcy
Patrica Comerford

Joseph Kavanagh

Jessica Murphy

LITSU/LSADSU

Philip Desmond
Ciara Smyth

Ashling McGrory
Paul Cashin

Una Cahill

MSU

Leon Dipp
Kim Lockyer

Niamh Halfpenny
Katie Deegan

Paul Kenny

NCADSU

Issey Goold

NUIGSU

Andrew Forde

Megan Reilly

Louis Courtney

STACS

Marie Lyons

TCDSU

Kevin Keane
Xander Cosgrave
Paraic McLean

Damien McClean
Colm O'Halloran

Alice MacPherson
Shane DeRis

UCCSU

Anna Heverin
Aaron Frahill

Kelly Coyle
David Cronin

Niamh Connery

WITSU

Michael Murphy
Darren Malone

Marie Sheedy
John Fortune

Celine Casey

Bord na nOifigeach, AMLÉ

Michael Kerrigan, President

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

Oisín Hassan, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Níamh Murtagh, Vice President for Welfare

Amy Kelly, Vice President for Campaigns

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:

DCUSU; Niall Behna, DCUSU; Podge Henry, DCUSU; Matt Davey, DCUSU; Brendan Power, DCUSU; Aisling Fagan, DCUSU; Karl McGovern, DITSU; Boni Odoemene, DITSU; Serike Oluwasegun, IADTSU; Chloe Power, ITTSU; Shaun Walsh, MSU; Darragh Moran, MSU; Aoife Fennal.

Preliminary Notes:

1. Item 10 Elections was moved to Item 4 on the Agenda.
2. Item 7(b) and 7(c) were removed from the Agenda.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting which occurred at Dublin City University, on 4th of May were proposed by MSU and seconded by CCSU and **passed without objection.**

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Pre-Nominated Any Other Business

- The Vice President for Campaigns pre-nominated USI Annual Report.
- ITTDSU pre-nominated seating arrangements for Congress.

4. Elections

4(a) USI Finance Committee

Two candidates put their name forward for Election to USI Finance Committee;

- Aaron Burke, GMIT
- Stephen McCrystall, QUB

The Chairperson asked if anyone wished to request a physical ballot election. With no offer coming from the floor, both candidates were offered for acclamation so their election was **approved without objection.**

4(b) Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs

Two candidates put their names forward for election to Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs;

- Xander Cosgrave, TCD
- Andrew Forde, NUIG

Andrew Forde of NUIG was deemed elected to the position of Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs.

5. Officer Reports

The Vice President for the Irish Language/Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge had nothing to add to her report. LITSU offered their sincere thanks and best wishes to the VP for the Irish Language.

The Vice President for the Dublin Region had nothing to add to her report. TCDSU and ITTDSU offered their sincere thanks and best wishes to the VP for the Dublin Region.

The Vice President for the Southern Region had nothing to add to her report. ITTSU and LITSU offered their sincere thanks and best wishes to the VP for the Southern Region.

The Vice President for the Border, Midlands & Western Region had nothing to add to his report. MSU, NUIGSU and DKITSU offered their sincere thanks and best wishes to the VP for the Border, Midlands & Western Region.

The Vice President for Campaigns had nothing to add to her report. LITSU and GMITSU offered their sincere thanks and best wishes to the VP for Campaigns. LITSU asked what the VPC believed would be the biggest campaign for next year. The VPC responded by stating that she believed that the biggest campaign for next year will be in the area of accommodation.

The Vice President for Welfare noted that she didn't declare in her Officer Report that she kindly received a hoodie from ITTDSU. ITTDSU, LITSU and ITTSU offered their sincere thanks and best wishes to the VP for Welfare.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs requested that MO's please respond back as soon as they can to the NStEP Evaluation email. MSU, WITSU and TCDSU offered their sincere thanks and best wishes to the VP for Academic Affairs.

The Deputy President and Vice President for Equality & Citizenship had nothing to add to her report. ITBSU, ITTDSU and DITSU offered their sincere thanks and best wishes to the Deputy President and Vice President for Equality & Citizenship. The DPVPE&C expressed her heartfelt appreciation to everyone regarding their involvement in the Repeal the 8th Referendum campaign. The DPVPE&C continued by acknowledging the massive team effort involved from all of USI officer board and MO's around the Country.

The President had nothing to add to his report. DITSU questioned when was the next HEA meeting regarding the TU process. The President explained that the next meeting will be held next Tuesday. GMITSU, LITSU and MSU offered their sincere thanks and best wishes to the President.

6. Media Report

The President outlined in detail the circulated media report document which covered USI media engagement over the last three months. In particular, it was noted how USI have achieved a large media presence as a result of the Student for Choice campaign.

7. Items for Agreement

7(a) Pre-budget submission

The President presented the proposed Pre-budget submission document as circulated which was seconded by GMITSU and **was passed without objection.**

7(b) USI Sustainability Strategy

The Vice President for the Southern Region presented the proposed USI Sustainability Strategy as circulated which was seconded by ITTSU and **was passed unanimously.**

7(c) National Health Campaign “Still Waiting” motion

The motion; National Health Campaign “Still Waiting” was proposed by Vice President for the Southern Region and seconded by WITSU and **was passed without objection.**

Motion to support the ‘Still Waiting’ National Health Campaign

National Council Acknowledges:

Up to now there have been many different campaigns that have fought on local hospital or individual health issues.

National Council recognises that:

The ‘Still Waiting’ Health Campaign is an umbrella campaign that aims to bring health campaigns together around a common platform to demand a decent health service, The Still Waiting campaign believe that it will be stronger if all come together on a common platform. The campaign is supported by many organisations, including Unions - Irish Congress, SIPTU, Forsa, INMO and Unite.

The agreed platform is the following:

- Significant investment in order to raise the number of acute hospital beds to the European average.
- Increase the numbers of nurses and frontline staff to pre-crisis levels.
- Move towards a National Health Care system free at the point of use and paid for through progressive taxation.
- Create a public not for profit Home Help Service.
- Return of closed services such as A&E departments, cardiac services to local areas where they are needed.

Therefore National Council Mandates:

USI Officerboard to support ‘Still Waiting’ national health campaign.

7(d) USI Steering Committee

The President proposed the following people to the role of USI Steering Committee;

- Colm Murphy
- Aodhán Ó Deá
- Eoin Hayes
- Ciara Guinan
- Scott Ahern
- Conor Doyle
- Nora Duncan
- Paul Lynam
- Helen Campbell

This proposal was **passed unanimously**.

8. Items for Discussion

8(a) USI Financial Update

The President provided a financial update for the last three months (up to the end of May). The President also reminded everyone that the audited accounts were presented recently at Congress.

LITSU thanked all of USI officer board for their commitment in making cost savings for the organisation this year.

8(b) Membership satisfaction survey

This item was removed.

8(c) USI Office

This item was removed.

9. Items for Information

9(a) Lobby Day

The President noted that the date for the Lobby Day was Wednesday the 20th of June and encouraged all MO's to contact any local T.D's and request their attendance. The President also stressed the importance for each MO to send at least one representative on the day and explained that there will be briefing beforehand.

9(b) Homes For Study Campaign

The President explained that homes.usi.ie will be relaunched once the Leaving Cert exam period is completed.

9(c) Fairtrade partnership

The Vice President for Southern Region announced that USI has agreed a new partnership with Fairtrade.

9(d) European Language Label Award

The Vice President for the Irish Language/Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge noted that USI recently won the "European Language Label Award" for their work in helping to translate LGBT terminology into Irish. The VP for the Irish Language/Leas Uachtarán

don Ghaeilge thanked everyone who was involved in the project and expressed her delight that USI received this award.

9(e) VideoDoc Update

The VPC explained how USI set up a partnership with VideoDoc on a trial basis in December of last year and announced that this service will be extended for the upcoming academic year. The VPC noted that the campaign announcing the extension will be broken up into two parts; the 1st part of the campaign will be aimed at promoting the service for students who are traveling during the summer months; the 2nd part of the campaign will be launched during the month of September.

9(f) Craol Partnership

The Vice President for the Southern Region confirmed that the USI has established a partnership with Craol; Community Radio Forum of Ireland. The VPSR noted that this partnership will be particularly useful for any student radio stations as they will offer training in the area of governance.

10. Any Other Business

The Vice President for Campaigns noted that the USI Annual Report was ready for circulation and briefly outlined the layout of the document.

ITTDSU requested if a discussion regarding USI officer board seating location at Congress could be discussed next year. The DPVPE&C noted that this hasn't been highlighted before but confirmed that it can be discussed at President Working Group.

WITSU then thanked the Chair and Deputy Chair for turning up to assist with National Council throughout the year.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked this year's National Council for all their work and wished the incoming USI team all the best with the year ahead. The President expressed sincere thanks to all of the staff in both USI and GMITSU, the Chair and Deputy Chair of National Council and USI officer board.

The Chairperson commended this year's National Council for being well organised and cohesive throughout the year and wished everyone all the best for the future. The Chairperson then went on to thank GMITSU for hosting the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home before closing the meeting.