

The National Council of the Union of Students in Ireland

Minutes

National Council USI, NC 59.1

Athlone Institute of Technology

13th July, 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

BMCSU

John-Daniel Armstrong

CCSU

Amanda Bowes

CITSU

Jeff Jones

DCUSU

Craig McHugh Callaghan Commons

DITSU

Pierre Yimbog Róisín O' Donovan

DKITSU

Maria Maguire

GMITSU

Aaron Burke Victor O'Loughlin Gary Tobin

IADTSU

Chloe Power Niamh Grennan Grace Latham

ITBSU

Kris Sulkowski Luke Daly Kayode Adebisin
Mark Doyle

ITCSU

Richard Morrell Roisín Sheridan Ronan Larkin
Erica Cunningham

ITSSU

Vanessa Molloy

Laura Muldoon

Tara Reilly

ITTDSU

Megan O'Neill

ITTSU

Petrina Comerford

LITSU/LSADSU

Una Cahill

Paul Cashin

Jade Foynes

LYITSU

William Conroy Daly

MSU

Leon Dipp

Katie Deegan

Paul Kenny

Kim Lockyer

NCADSU

Ross Kelly

NUIGSU

Megan Reilly

Clare Austick

STACSU

Marie Lyons

TCDSU

Shane DeRis

Paraic McLean

Daniel Flood

Aimee Connolly

James Cunningham

Oisin Vince Coulter

UCCSU

Kelly Coyle

Aaron Frahill

Niamh Connery

Faye Murphy

David Cronin

UUSU

Kevin McStravock

Owen McCloskey

Andrew McAnallen

Conor Keenan

Meghan Downey

Collette Cassidy

WITSU

Marie Sheedy

Darren Malone

John Fortune

Bord na nOifigeach, AMLÉ

Síona Cahill, President

Oisín Hassan, Deputy President/ Vice President for Academic Affairs

Damien McClean, Vice President for Welfare

Michelle Byrne, Vice President for Campaigns

Aisling Cusack, Vice President for Equality and Citizenship

Barry Clohessy, Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region
Lorna Fitzpatrick, Vice President for the Southern Region
Colm O'Halloran, Vice President for the Dublin Region
Aoife Deasy, Vice President for the Irish Language/Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge
Andrew Forde, Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs
Olivia Potter-Hughes, NUS-USI President

NAMES FOR WHOM APOLOGIES WERE OFFERED TO THE MEETING:

AITSU; Cat Power, AITSU; Aine Daly, DCUSU; Vito Moloney Burke, DCUSU; Karl McGovern, DCUSU; Aisling Fagan, DITSU; Jess Morris, DITSU; Rebecca O'Gorman, ITTSU; Jess Murphy, ITTSU Joseph Kavanagh, LITSU; Ashling McGrory, NCADSU; Issey Gould.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting which occurred at Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, 15th June were proposed by GMITSU and seconded by ITBSU and **passed without objection.**

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Pre-Nominated Any Other Business

- The President pre-nominated election to the Board of the Oireachtas.
- MSU pre-nominated group photo.

4. Elections

4(a) USI Finance Committee

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

- Marie Lyons, STACSU
- Marie Sheedy, WITSU

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) Campaigns Sub Committee

The following were elected on a regional basis to the Campaigns Sub-Committee;

Border, Midlands & Western Region

Clare Austick (NUIGSU)

Katie Deegan (MSU)

Victor O'Loughlin (GMITSU)

Southern Region

Kelly Coyle (UCCSU)

Eric Cunningham (ITCSU)

Darren Malone (WITSU)

Northern Region

Robert Murtagh (QUBSU)

Andrew McAnallen (UUSU)

Dublin Region

Craig McHugh (DCUSU)

Oisín Oisín Vince-Coulter (TCDSU)

Roisín O'Donovan (DITSU)

4(c) Coiste Cultútha Committee

The following were elected on a regional basis to the Coiste Cultútha Committee;

Border, Midlands & Western Region

Martha Gibney (STACS)

Tara Reilly (ITSSU)

Kellíe Nuallainn Chuimean (ITSSU)

Ciarán Watts (MSU)

Laurie Doiré (MSU)

Adhna Nic Dhonnchadha (NUIGSU)

Southern Region

Amanda Bowes (CCSU)

Faye Murphy (UCCSU)

Aisling Nic Ruairí (LITSU)

Dublin Region

Craig Mc Hugh DCU

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile DCU

Amy Keatinge IT Tallaght

Poilín Nic Geisigh DITSU

Cúnla Morris TCD

5. Officer Reports

The NUS-USI President verbally outlined details of her officer report and noted that her next report will be included in the circulated National Council documents. There were no questions.

The Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs had nothing to add to his report. There were no questions.

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

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

The Vice President for the Southern Region thanked LITSU for their hospitality shown during Limerick Pride. There were no questions.

The Vice President for the Border, Midlands & Western Region had nothing to add to his report. GMITSU offered their sincere thanks for organising a successful regional bonding event which the VPBMW gratefully accepted.

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship had nothing to add to her report. TCDSU asked if there is an option of including a students for colour campaign. The VPE&C explained could possibly be considered and will be examined in more detail.

The Vice President for Campaigns had nothing to add to her report. There were no questions.

The Vice President for Welfare had nothing to add to his report. There were no questions.

The Deputy President and Vice President for Academic Affairs had nothing to add to his report. There were no questions.

The President had nothing to add to her report. ITBSU questioned why supports for Students' Union going through the TU merger was not discussed during the meeting with Minster Mary Mitchell O'Connor's Senior Advisors. The President explained that the agenda for the meeting had already been set and it was mentioned during AOB. The President also noted that this meeting was scheduled a number of weeks

ago. The President finally noted that individual officer expenses will be included in future officer reports.

6. Media Report

The President outlined that since this was a period of transition a more detailed Media Report will be presented at the next National Council. The President did note that accommodation was the biggest item covered this week in the media.

7. Items for Agreement

7(a) USI Deputy President

The President explained that Article 5.3.5 of the USI Constitution requires that the President propose a member of Officer Board to be ratified as Deputy President of USI at the first National Council meeting of the year. In pursuance thereof she proposed that Oisín Hassan, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, be appointed to the position of Deputy President of USI.

This proposal was seconded by UUSU and **was passed without objection.**

7(b) USI Officer for Ents, Marketing and Commercial

The President proposed Michelle Byrne, the Vice President for Campaigns, to be appointed to the position of Chair of Entertainments, Marketing and Commercial Working Group.

This proposal was seconded by TCDSU and **was passed without objection**

7(c) Open Access Policy motion

The motion; Open Access Policy was proposed by Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs and seconded by GMITSU and **was passed without objection.**

Open Access Policy Motion:

National Council Notes:

The freedom of researchers to publish wherever they feel most appropriate.

The need to increase and improve access to the output of research.

The increased digitisation of literature.

The increased price of subscriptions and barriers to access.

National Council Believes:

Research must be freely available on the public internet, permitting any user ‘free to read’ and ‘free to re-use’ access.

The only constraints on open access should be that it is achieved whilst satisfying the principle that authors be acknowledged through citation for their work, and maintain control over the dignity of their work.

National Council Mandates:

The VP for Postgraduate Affairs to develop a position paper on open access.

National Council Further Mandates:

The VP for Postgraduate Affairs to collaborate with EuroDoc and other relevant parties to lobby for open access.

8. Items for Discussion

There were no Items for Discussion.

9. Items for Information

9(a) Training Calendar

The President highlighted a number of Training Calendar dates and explained that all of the details will be circulated by the start of next week.

9(b) NYCI Board Membership Election

The President confirmed that the Vice President for Campaigns, Michelle Byrne has been elected to National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) Board.

9(c) Problem Gambling Ireland Board Membership

The President confirmed that the Vice President for Campaigns, Michelle Byrne has also been elected to Problem Gambling Ireland Board.

9(d) Updates of VideoDoc Partnership

The Vice President for Welfare noted that at the start of term (Fresher’s Week) a campaign roadshow will be launched to help promote VideoDoc service for students. The VPW briefly outlined the prizes involved as part of the campaign.

9(e) Mental Health First Aid Training

The VPW noted that more information regarding Mental Health First Aid Training will be circulated next week. The VPW explained that the training is open to all SU Officers and encouraged MO’s to please send at least one Officer to this training event.

9(f) Homes for Study

The VPC confirmed that an accommodation booklet is being produced which will also include information on reducing energy and a useable rent book. The VPC also noted that they will need assistance in promoting homes.usi.ie as it’s a very important campaign.

9(g) Voter Registration

The VPE&C discussed the plans to launch the Voter Registration campaign during college induction periods and informed the meeting that USI will be preparing a campaign tool kit. The VPE&C also noted that MO’s will receive support from Regional Officers.

10. Any Other Business

The President confirmed that Vice President for the Irish Language/Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge has also been elected to the Board of the Oireachtas which main focus is Oireachtas na Samhna,

MSU requested if a group photo could be arranged at SUT+ to help support the discussion around the topic of supporting students of colour on campuses. The President agreed that this would be accommodated in the schedule during SUT+.

TCDSU noted that they would like to include any key USI campaign dates in their SU handbook so requested for any confirmed dates to be circulated. The VPC explained that any national campaign dates have yet to be decided at Campaigns Sub-Committee. The VPC noted that once any decisions have been confirmed, she will circulate this information around.

NUIGSU provided a brief update regarding the Cúirt Shakedown and noted that their case will be heard on the 20th of July. NUIGSU confirmed that they will keep National Council updated on any progress made.

The President highlighted that at the end of National Council they will be handing out stickers from Need Abortion Ireland for any MO's who wish to take some back to their campus.

The President thanked everyone for their contribution and involvement during all of SUT. The President kindly reminded everyone that USI Officer Board is here to offer advice and support to any Officer or MO at any stage during the year. The President expressed sincere thanks to AITSU for the exceptional hosting during the delivery of SUT.

The Chairperson thanked AIT Carlow Students' Union for hosting today's meeting, thanked all present for their participation and wished everyone a safe journey home before closing the meeting.