

The National Council of the Union of Students in Ireland

Minutes

National Council USI, NC 59.2

University of Ulster, Coleraine

16th August, 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 Aíne Daly

DCUSU

Vito Moloney Burke Callaghan Commons Aisling Fagan

DITSU

Pierre Yimbog Róisín O' Donovan Rebecca Gorman
Jess Morris

DKITSU

Maria Maguire

GMITSU

Aaron Burke Victor O'Loughlin Gary Tobin
Emma-Louise Duffy

ITBSU

Kris Sulkowski Luke Daly Kayode Adebisin
Mark Doyle

ITCSU

Richard Morrell Roisín Sheridan Erica Cunningham

ITSSU

Vanessa Molloy Tara Ní Raghallaigh

ITTDSU

Amy Keatinge Megan O'Neill Lee Bennett

ITTSU

Jessica Murphy Petrina Comerford Joesph Kavanagh

LITSU/LSADSU

Ashling McGrory Una Cahill

LYITSU

Paul Lynch

William Daly

Siobhán Howe

MSULeon Diop
Katie Deegan

Paul Kenny

Kim Lockyer

NCADSU

Ross Kelly

Issey Goold

NUIGSU

Megan Reilly

Clare Austick

QUBSUConnor Veighey
Sinéad HenryLucy Gault
Hamsavani Rajeswaren

Robert Murtagh

STACSU

Marie Lyons

St Mary's Belfast SU

Damien Ball

Bronagh McCaughan

Stranmillis SU

Kerry McQuillan

TCDSU

Shane DeRis

Paraic McLean

Aimee Connolly

UUSUKevin McStravock
Owen McCloskeyAndrew McAnallen
Conor KeenanMeghan 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; Catherine Power, DKITSU; Aaron Geagan, UUSU; Emma Bonner

Preliminary Notes

- Item 9(a); USI Budget 2018/2018 was moved to Items for Agreement; 7(f).
- The attendance of the USI General Manager was approved.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting which occurred at Athlone Institute of Technology, 13th July were proposed by AITSU and seconded by TCDSU and **passed without objection.**

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Pre-Nominated Any Other Business

None.

4. Elections

None.

5. Media Report

USI General Manager outlined in detail the level of media monitoring that had been conducted during the month of July. In particular, the USI General Manager highlighted that the following two topics were covered most during this recent period; accommodation issues and substance abuse/smart drugs. The USI General Manager continued to outline the research and data collected regarding USI media work.

DKITSU asked if local MO's should mention USI whenever they are doing media interviews. USI General Manager explained that if any MO's are doing media interviews that if they mention "The Union of Students in Ireland" that it will be picked up and asked local officers to keep Officer Board updated on any interesting media you are doing.

6. Officer Reports

The NUS-USI President invited everyone to attend the Diversity Carnival in Belfast on the 1st of September. 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 had nothing to add to her report. There were no questions.

The Vice President for the Border, Midlands & Western Region had nothing to add to his report. ITSSU and STACS offered their sincere thanks for assisting with local issues and development of policies which the VPBMW gratefully accepted.

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship had nothing to add to her report. There were no questions.

The Vice President for Campaigns had nothing to add to her report. DITSU requested an update regarding the work completed in the area of Union Development. The VPC confirmed that she is working with the Regional Officers to review the data and collect permission from all of the participants before she can share the information in full.

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. STACSU offered their sincere thanks for visiting their campus which the DP&VPAA gratefully accepted.

The President had nothing to add to her report. DITSU requested clarity if the discussion on Students' Union funding is being discussed within the HEA. The President explained that this item has so far not being discussed but it was highlighted

along with the idea of a student partnership agreement at the recent meeting with Minister Mary Mitchel O'Connor and her advisors.

MSU commended the President on her keynote speech in the United States at the Planned Parenthood conference. The President noted that she was invited to attend due to the years of outstanding work from the Irish student movement.

ITTDSU thanked the President for showing her support at the recent announcement of Technological University Dublin which the President gratefully accepted. The President also added that the item of mergers was also discussed with Minister Mary Mitchel O'Connor and she requested the need for additional resources and funding and how the student voice will be central in the whole process. The President finally noted that discussion of the mergers progress across the Country will be something that will be discussed continuously throughout the year at any further meetings with the Minister.

7. Items for Agreement

7(a) Officer Board Plan of Work

The President proposed the circulated Officer Board Plan of Work which was seconded by GMITSU and **was passed without objection.**

7(b) Officer Board Advisory Panels

The President proposed the circulated Officer Board Advisory Panels which was seconded by ITTDSU and **was passed unanimously.**

7(c) USI Accommodation Campaign

The circulated USI Accommodation Campaign plan was proposed by the Campaigns Sub-Committee and seconded by MSU and **was passed without objection.**

7(d) Career Guidance Review Motion

The motion; Career Guidance Review was proposed by Deputy President/ Vice President for Academic Affairs and seconded by ITBSU and **was passed without objection.**

National Council notes:

The Career Guidance Review announced by the Minister for Education, Richard Bruton, in early 2018.

That this review aims to examine all aspects of Career Guidance, including at secondary and third-level.

That an external Consultancy firm, Indecon, is carrying out this review, and that USI aided Indecon in circulating a number of surveys for Further and Higher Education students, and that USI submitted its own written submission in June 2018.

National Council believes:

That this Review is an important opportunity to consider the role of good career guidance for transition, progression, retention, success, and wellbeing.

That the specific focus of the Review on enterprise engagement should not detract from the views of students in shaping the outcome of the Review.

National Council welcomes:

The Career Guidance Review and the number of opportunities provided to gain the views of students, however, it would have been preferable for the Review to be held during term-time.

National Council believes that:

The Review should conclude that career guidance must be considered as a continuous process, and that a National Strategy should clearly link each level of education and each pathway to promote lifelong learning, supports, and informed decision-making.

The Review must conclude the need to invest in significant resource, including employing more specific Career Guidance Teachers/Counsellors in Schools after cuts during austerity years, as well as resourcing for Careers Offices at third-level.

Any National Strategy or approach requires a new agency for oversight and implementation that can also create best practice and support continuous professional development in career guidance. This agency should also develop, maintain, and support an online resource that can replace or revamp Qualifax and other tools.

7(e) AirBnB Regulation Motion

The motion; AirBnB Regulation was proposed by TCDSU and seconded by WIITSU and **was passed without objection.**

National Council regrets:

As of the beginning of August 2018 there was a mere 1,400 houses available to rent in Dublin. At the same time there was in excess of 3,000 homes to let on AirBnB.

National Council notes:

The regulation of short-term letting through agents such as AirBnB in cities such as Amsterdam and Berlin tackled directly the congestion in the availability of housing.

National Council therefore mandates:

The President to lobby the Government to introduce further regulation of this sector similar to that in effect in other cities in order to increase the availability of housing.

7(f) USI Budget 2018/2019

The President and the USI General Manager discussed in detail the proposed USI Budget 2018/2019 which was recently approved at USI Finance Committee. The President proposed the USI Budget 2018/2019 which was seconded by WITSU and **was passed without objection.**

8. Items for Discussion

8(a) Finance Update

USI General Manager provided a comprehensive interim report for July and explained that the updates will be quarterly throughout the year. There were no questions.

8(b) National Council Dates 2018/2019

The circulated list of Congress and National Council dates were discussed in detail. It was agreed that at next weeks Presidents Working Group (which will be held on the 20-08-2018) the following will be agreed; dates and locations of all National Council meetings for 2018/2019 and the date and location for Congress 2019.

9. Items for Information

9(a) 36th European Students' Convention

The DP&VPAA noted the next European Students' Convention will be held in Vienna on the 23rd to the 26th of September. The DP&VPAA explained details regarding the application process will be circulated soon and apologies for the short turnaround for application submissions.

9(b) Pink Training dates

The VPE&C confirmed that the date for Pink Training will be the 30th of November to the 2nd of December.

9(c) March for Choice 2018

The VPE&C confirmed that the March for Choice 2018 will be the 29th of September.

9(d) Congress 2019 dates

This item was removed.

10. Any Other Business

ITBSU requested an update regarding the sponsorship gained for this year's Pink Training event. The VPE&C confirmed that she is still actively looking and will keep National Council updated on any progress made and noted that she is conscious not to make the event too commercial. The VPE&C also noted that she will look at the role that the potential sponsorship company plays within the community.

NCADSU requested if there any dates scheduled for future Marriage Equality Marches for Northern Ireland. The NUS-USI President explained that all of this year's Marriage Equality Marches have now passed. The NUS-USI President also highlighted that the Diversity Carnival will be on held on the 1st of September in Belfast. The NUS-USI President ended by explaining that she will include any relevant campaigns/marches within her reports and give notice to USI so that this information can be circulated.

The President thanked everyone for their contribution and involvement during the last few days. The President expressed sincere thanks to UUSU for the exceptional hosting during the delivery of SUT+ and noted how great the team assisted with the planning and preparation over the last few weeks.

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