

The National Council of the Union of Students in Ireland

Minutes

National Council USI, NC 60.1

Waterford Institute of Technology

11th July 2019

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

Aine Daly

Mary Doyle

John Devine

CCSU

Adam Kane

DCUSU

Christine Farrell

Katie Fay

Callaghan Commons

Olivia Forde

DKITSU

Glenn Mc Court

Taidgh Kavanagh

Christopher O'Neill

GMITSU

Aaron Burke

Gary Tobin

Victor O'Loughlin

Jayne Cooley

IADTSU

Anthony Dunne

Oran Moten

Eimear Boyd

ITCSU

Thomas Drury

Tawnya Foster

Ronan Larkin

Cynthia Hyland

ITTSU

Petrina Comerford

Jason O'Byrne

Joseph Kavanagh

ITSSU

Laura Muldoon

Tara Ní Raghallaigh

Jason Quinn

LITSU

Sinead Nix

LYITSU

Adam O'Flaherty

Mary Hernandez

MSU

Katie Deegan
Michael Butler

Paul Kenny

Ciarán Watts

NCADSU

Caelainn Kerrigan

NCISU

Dajana Sinik

Dean Murphy

NUIGSU

Clare Austick

Brandon Walsh

Cameron Keighron

QUBSU

Connor Veighey
Hamsavani Rajeswaren

Ciaran O'Brien

Jason Bunting

STACS

Joe Redahan

TCDSU

Laura Beston

Niamh McCay

Aisling Leen

TUDSU

Pierre Yimbog
Megan O'Neill
Barry Egan

Amy Keatinge
Luke Daly
Daniel Sogaolu

Lee Bennett
Hayley Keogh
Moya Browne

UUSU

Andrew McAnallen
Owen McCloskey
Nicole Parkinson-Kelly

Collette Cassidy
Chris Chambers

Oisín Kinsella
Shauna Murphy

UCCSU

Ben Dunlea
Ciara Kealy

David Condon
Catherine Dawson

Naoise Crowley
Sophie O'Sullivan

WITSU

John Fortune

Paula Rochford

Ben Gunnip

Bord na nOifigeach, AMLÉ

Lorna Fitzpatrick, President

Kevin McStravock, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Róisín O' Donovan, Vice President for Welfare

Megan Reilly, Vice President for Equality and Citizenship

Maire Lyons, Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region

Darren Malone, Vice President for the Southern Region

Craig McHugh, Vice President for the Dublin Region

Clíodhna Ní Dhufaigh, Vice President for the Irish Language/Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge

Sara Dowling, Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs

Preliminary Notes:

- 1) The meeting agreed on the attendance of Ben Archibald, Cat O'Driscoll, and Joni Alexandar which **was passed unanimously**.
- 2) Before the meeting started the Chairperson provided a brief introduction session outlining the role of National Council and noted that in future the Media Report will be covered under Items for Information.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting which occurred at Maynooth University, 14th June were proposed by GMITSU and seconded by TUDSU and **passed without objection**.

2. Matters Arising

- GMITSU noted that the following two names were missing from the Maynooth University apologies list of names; Aaron Burke and Jayne Cooley.
- TUDSU noted that the previous President was supposed to circulate their last Officer Report and questioned if there was any update. The President explained that she will pass the request on and circulate the report around once she has received it.

3. Elections

3(a) Chair and Deputy Chair of National Council

The President proposed the following people to the role of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of National Council which was seconded by WITSU;

- Chairperson: Richard Hammond
- Deputy Chairperson: Cathy Pembroke

This proposal was **approved**.

3(b) USI Finance Committee

Three candidates put their name forward for election to USI Finance Committee;

- Clare Austick, NUIGSU was proposed by ITCSU, NCISU and QUBSU.
- Katie Deegan, MSU was proposed by ITTSU and WITSU.
- Thomas Drury, ITCSU was proposed by TUDSU and WITSU.

Clare Austick of NUIG and Katie Deegan of MSU were both deemed elected to USI Finance Committee.

3(c) Campaigns Strategy Committee

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

BMW

Áine Daly, AITSU
Cameron Keighron, NUIGSU
Gary Tobin, GMITSU

Dublin

Callaghan Commons, DCUSU
Luke Daly, TUDSU
Lee Bennett, TUDSU

NUS-USI

Collette Cassidy, UUSU
Ciarán O'Brien, QUBSU
Owen McCloskey, UUSU

South

Petrina Comerford, ITTSU
David Condon, UCCSU
Ciara Kealey, UCCSU

3(d) Coiste Cultúrtha

The following set of nominations were proposed on a regional basis by Vice President for the Irish Language/Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge for the Coiste Cultúrtha;

Ciarán Watts, MSU
Laurie Doré, MSU
Ruairí Breathnach Weiner, MSU
Christopher O'Neill, DKITSU
Cameron Keighron, NUIGSU
Maxton Ó Fhloinn, IT Sligo SU
Sarah McWeeney, STACS SU
Shauna McAree, STACS SU
Muireann Nic Corcráin, TCDSU
Sorcha Ní Chonghaile, DCUSU
Daniel Sogaolu, TUDSU
Gisèle Scanlon, TCD GSU
Naoise Crowley, UCCSU
John Fortune, WITSU
Oisín Kinsella, UUSU

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

4. Executive Reports

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

The Vice President for the Border, Midlands & Western Region had nothing to add to her report. There were no questions.

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship had nothing to add to her report. TUDSU questioned if the dates, location and sponsorship for Pink Training have been confirmed. The VPE&C clarified that all this information will be presented at the next National Council.

The Vice President for Welfare had nothing to add to her report. TUDSU asked when will MO's be requested to place their condom orders. The VPW noted that she will be contacting MO's very soon to confirm each colleges order. TUDSU questioned what type of additional training will be arranged this year. The VPW explained that training such as ASIST and casework training is being considered and more details will be circulated soon.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs had nothing to add to his report. TUDSU requested an update regarding NStEP. The VPAA outlined that the new manager takes up their post at the end of July and that he plans to meet the manager as soon as possible. The VPAA continued by confirming that an event for MO's is scheduled for August and training for class reps will also be made available.

The President took questions on behalf of NUS-USI President and Vice President for Campaigns. The President first responded to TUDSU question regarding an update in relation to the Mental Health Survey. The President explained that the completed report is currently with the designer and the report will be launched in August. TUDSU sought clarification if the report will be launched in conjunction with Jigsaw. The President responded by saying she will follow up with a response once she has confirmed with the staff member involved. MSU asked a question for the VPC and requested to know

if the national demo dates have been decided. The President explained that these details first need to be discussed at the Campaign Strategy Committee and ideally will be arranged pre-budget. TUDSU questioned when will the Executive Team work plans be presented and the Affiliation Fee Review completed. The President confirmed that the Executive Team work plans will be presented at SUT+ and then explained that the Affiliation Fee Review will be delivered in line with the timing of other reviews and that MO's will be consulted throughout the process.

5. **Media Report**

The President confirmed that the media report has been circulated around.

6. **Items for Agreement**

6(a) **USI Deputy President**

The President explained that Article 5.3.5 of the USI Constitution requires that the President propose a member of Executive Team to be ratified as Deputy President of USI at the first National Council meeting of the year. In pursuance thereof, she proposed that Michelle Byrne, the Vice President for Campaigns, be appointed to the position of Deputy President of USI.

This proposal was seconded by CCSU and **was passed unanimously.**

6(b) **USI Ents, Marketing & Commercial Working Group Terms of Reference**

The Vice President for the Dublin Region proposed the circulated USI Ents, Marketing & Commercial Working Group Terms of Reference.

This proposal was seconded by DCUSU and **was passed unanimously.**

6(c) **Motion: Remit Specific Training Day for Deputy Presidents/Campus Conveners**

The motion: Remit Specific Training Day for Deputy Presidents/Campus Conveners was proposed by TUDSU and was seconded by UUSU and **was passed unanimously.**

Motion: Remit Specific Training Day for Deputy Presidents/Campus Conveners

National Council notes:

A number of Students' Unions have officers with specific or portfolio responsibilities on their campuses that may be additional to all other officers, if any, on that campus.

National Council further notes:

That SUT and SUT+ are already jam-packed with modules, and that there isn't enough time to provide adequate training in a number of areas relevant to the role of the deputy president/campus convener/VP with responsibility for a campus.

National Council recognises:

The USI Training Policy, and the methodology within it for assessing the needs of a group before providing training, and seeks to uphold this policy when ascertaining the additional training to be provided under the remit of this mandate.

National Council therefore mandates:

In line with the USI Training Policy, the USI President to facilitate a daylong training day- to coincide with "Pres Day", where possible, where training will be provided in essential areas as needed through assessing the needs of the relevant SU Officers. This day is to occur no later than August 30th in any given year.

6(d) Motion: Motorcycle Safety

The motion: Motorcycle Safety was proposed by ITTSU and was seconded by ITCSU and **was passed by a majority.**

Motion: Motorcycle Safety

National Council notes:

That the Road Safety Authority do run campaigns in relation to vehicles of all types albeit more influence is placed on some modes more than others The Road Safety campaigns currently run by USI and MO's both locally and nationally and the increasing number of students choosing motorcycles as a mode of transport.

National Council notes with concern:

The rise in motorcycle related collisions and accidents on Irish roads. Based on figures from the RSA (Road Safety Authority) May 2019 the number of motorcyclist involved in fatal collisions from 2005-2015 was 212 in comparison to cyclists during the same period was 47.

National Council further notes:

The RSA has information available on motorcyclists but unfortunately, they don't provide enough information for other road users on how to look out for motorcyclists. The need for MO's to highlight the importance of motorcycle safety is of paramount importance.

National Council therefore mandates:

USI to assist MO's where possible to roll out motorcycle safety and awareness campaigns geared towards students.

National Council also mandates:

The VP Welfare to look into collaborating with organisations such as the Road Safety Authority in promoting Road Safety (irrespective of vehicle – that all vehicles are included in their road safety, inclusive of cars, motorcycles, bicycles etc.) inclusive of all with a particular emphasis on students.

6(e) Motion: Campaigns Directory

The motion: Campaigns Directory was proposed by TUDSU and was seconded by DKITSU and **was passed unanimously.**

Motion: Campaigns Directory

National Council notes:

Campaigns across different MOs. need support from USI in particular education, welfare and union campaigns.

National Council applauds:

The past directories produced by a previous USI Vice President for Welfare titled ‘Welfare Campaigns Directory’.

National Council further notes:

There is a rising need for specialised supports around these campaigns ran across MOs.

Therefore, National Council mandates:

The Vice President for Campaigns, Academic Affairs and Welfare to produce a joint online campaigns directory to be published no later than SUT+ annually.

National Council repeals:

17 Wel 17.

6(f) Motion: Casework Training Day

The motion: Casework Training Day was proposed by TUDSU and was seconded by ITTSU and **was passed by a majority.**

Motion: Casework Training Day

National Council notes:

The majority of Students’ Union Officers are presented with casework on a daily basis.

National Council notes with concern:

The training provided at SUT and SUT+ doesn't meet the full requirements to prepare officers entirely for casework.

National Council mandates:

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Welfare to organise a dedicated training day around casework as informed by the relevant working groups.

7. Items for Discussion

7(a) Online training modules

The President invited MO's for their input around the prospect of delivering on-line training for officers. The President explained that only suitable training which is suited to be delivered online will be considered. MSU questioned what type of online platform will be considered. The President noted that they are currently examining the use of video conferencing. UUSU asked if training for Sports Officer positions will be considered. The President responded by saying that USI will take on board any suggestions. UUSU suggested that an additional volunteer session be considered and WITSU recommended that content around the needs of part-time officers be considered. The President welcomed these points and added that training options will be open for everyone to participate in. MSU noted the need to be aware of the different type of learnings styles which the President agreed with and said this point will be kept in mind.

7(b) Governance Review

The President explained that this is a standing item from last year and that the Government Review Committee met before the last National Council. The latest action with a consultant was completed and another update will be provided at the August National Council.

8. Items for Information

8(a) USI Officer responsible for Ents, Marketing and Commercial

The President outlined that Craig McHugh, Vice President for the Dublin Region will take on the remit of Chairperson of Ents, Marketing and Commercial Committee.

8(b) Election to NYCI Board

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

8(c) European Students' Union (ESU) #ESC38

The Vice President for Academic Affairs confirmed that the Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region will be assisting him with International Affairs and that the applications for the upcoming ESU meeting will open next week.

8(d) Education and Training Board Nominee

The President explained that USI has secured two places for each of the 16 ETB's. The President continued by explaining that these nominations need to be confirmed by the 19th of July and more information will be circulated next week.

8(e) Invitation to Fianna Fáil Healthcare Discussion

The President highlight that USI has been invited to speak at the Fianna Fáil Healthcare Discussion which will be held on the 17th of July.

8(f) #EndYouthHomelessness, Focus Ireland

The President noted that a definition activity is being prepared to be sent to the Dáil in September and requested help for spreading the word about it.

8(g) USI SU Handbook

The President confirmed that the USI SU Handbook will be circulated by email early next week.

8(h) Template Data Sharing Agreement

The President outlined that a resource on this topic point has been prepared and noted the importance of Students' Union gaining access to data.

9. Any Other Business

The President thanked everyone for their contribution and involvement during the last few days. The President continued by expressing their sincere thanks to AITSU for facilitating everything and for all their assistance with the running and hosting of SUT and today's elections.

The Chairperson thanked AITSU for hosting today's meeting and wished everyone a nice evening before closing the meeting.