

# The National Council of the Union of Students in Ireland

## Minutes

National Council USI, NC 60.2

Ulster University, Jordanstown

8<sup>th</sup> August 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

### CITSU

Cian O'Driscoll

### DCUSU

Christine Farrell

Aisling Fagan

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

Orán Moten

Eimear Boyd

### ITCSU

Thomas Drury

Tawnya Foster

Ronan Larkin

Cynthia Hyland

### ITTSU

Petrina Comerford

Joseph Kavanagh

Jason O'Byrne

### ITSSU

Laura Muldoon

Tara Ní Raghallaigh

Jason Quinn

### LITSU

Sinead Nix

### LYITSU

Siobhán Howe

Adam O'Flaherty

Mary Hernandez

**MSU**

Katie Deegan	Ciarán Watts
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**NCADSU**

Lily Cunningham	Caelainn Kerrigan
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**NCISU**

Dajana Sinik	Dean Murphy
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**NUIGSU**

Brandon Walsh	Cameron Keighron
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**QUBSU**

Connor Veighey	Ciaran O'Brien	Jason Bunting
Hamsavani Rajeswaren	Ellen Fearon	Gift Sotonye-Frank

**St. Mary's University College**

Donal Rafferty

**TUDSU**

Pierre Yimbog	Amy Keatinge	Lee Bennett
Luke Daly	Hayley Keogh	Rebecca Gorman
Barry Egan	Daniel Sogaolu	Moya Browne

**UUSU**

Andrew McAnallen	Oisín Kinsella	Nicole Parkinson-Kelly
Owen McCloskey	Chris Chambers	Shauna Murphy

**UCCSU**

Naoise Crowley	Ciara Kealy
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**WITSU**

John Fortune	Ben Gunnip
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**Bord na nOifigeach, AMLÉ**

Lorna Fitzpatrick, President  
Michelle Byrne, Deputy President and Vice President for Campaigns  
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 Dhufaiagh, Vice President for the Irish Language/Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge  
Sara Dowling, Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs  
Robert Murtagh, NUS-USI President

**NAMES FOR WHOM APOLOGIES WERE OFFERED TO THE MEETING:**

TUDSU; Megan O'Neill, WITSU; Paula Rochford.

## **Preliminary Notes:**

- 1) The meeting agreed on the attendance of Ben Archibald, Zamzam Ibrahim, Joni Alexander, Richard Whitmill, Mike Day and Laura Douds which **was passed unanimously**.
- 2) The meeting agreed on the attendance of Emma Allen from Focus Ireland which **was passed unanimously**.
- 3) It was agreed that Item 5: Media Report will be covered under Items for Information; the NUS UK President will address the meeting after Executive Team Reports and Items for Discussion will be covered before Items for Agreement.

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting which occurred at Athlone Institute of Technology, 11<sup>th</sup> July were proposed by GMITSU and seconded by WITSU and **passed without objection**.

### **2. Matters Arising**

- TUDSU requested if there was any update regarding an outstanding Officer Report from the previous President. The President stated that she made a request for the outstanding report on behalf of National Council. The President added that she has not received the report.

### **3. Elections**

#### **3(a) Electoral Commission**

Two candidates put their name forward for election to the Electoral Commission;

- Siobhán Howe, LYITSU.
- John Fortune, WITSU.

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 passed unanimously**.

### **4. Executive Team Reports**

The NUS-USI President offered his sincere thanks to TCDSU, MSU and everyone who supported the recent Belfast Pride and thanked the QUBSU Equality and Diversity Officer for hosting the Pre-Pride Breakfast. There were no questions.

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The Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs had nothing to add to her report. TUDSU requested an update regarding the SU Postgraduate Handbook. The VPPA explained that the handbook will be circulated by September.

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

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The Vice President for the Dublin Region had nothing to add to his report. TUDSU made a quick reference regarding does the VPDR plan to meet the entire SU team which the VPDR explained will be arranged as soon as possible after SUT+.

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The Vice President for the Southern Region provided a brief update regarding work with Cork Youth Advisory Group. There were no questions.

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

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The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship had nothing to add to her report. TUDSU questioned when will there be a full update regarding Pink Training. The VPE&C clarified that a few items are still at preliminary stage and that she will provide an official update very soon.

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The Vice President for Welfare confirmed that USI will be supporting the 20/20 Initiative which is about promoting and encouraging female participation in sport as its in line with the health promotion strategy. The VPW also highlighted that USI has been invited to attend a mental health conference in Brussels. TUDSU questioned if USI will be working with Men's Voice Organisation. The VPW explained that she had a brief conversation with them but noted that they are a political organisation so it might not be possible to work in collaboration with the organisation. UUSU asked for more information regarding the 20/20 initiative. The VPW explained that USI will attend the launch and that they are looking for both staff and Students' Union champions and once she receives more information, she will circulate this around.

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The Vice President for Academic Affairs had nothing to add to his report. TUDSU requested an update regarding best practise for Class Rep Councils. The VPAA explained that he will be working with the VPC and regional officers to roll out a campaign and that he is currently preparing a best practise model document. The VPAA also noted that he welcomes any input and suggestions and that more information will be circulated soon.

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The Deputy President and Vice President for Campaigns had nothing to add to her report. TUDSU questioned if there will be minutes circulated from the Campaigns

Strategy Committee. The DP+VPC stated that she records rough notes of the overall discussion which she will collate into minutes if required.

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The President had nothing to add to her report. DCUSU asked if there was any update regarding the ETB nominations. The President explained that all the ETB nominations have been sent in but noted that the situation is slightly different in comparison to what was originally intended. The President noted that each ETB will review all the nominations and will get back in contact once they have completed their selection process. GMITSU outlined details regarding their experience with their nomination. TUDSU sought an update from the meeting with Stephen Donnelly. The President responded by explaining that she felt the meeting was very positive and noted that a number of other MO Presidents were also in attendance. The President further explained that it was a very lengthy meeting and a huge range of topics were covered. The President finally mentioned that she has requested a follow up meeting which she asked all MO Presidents be invited to attend.

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## 5. NUS UK Presidential Address

The President welcomed the NUS UK President, Zamzam Ibrahim to the meeting and stressed the importance of learning and understanding all of the issues that are facing students in the UK.

The NUS UK President addressed the meeting and stressed the importance of the strong history between NUS, NUS-USI and USI which has helped deliver a strong student movement over the years. The NUS UK President also highlighted the importance of the trilateral agreement and welcomed continued collaboration between all of the Unions. The President thanked the NUS UK President for attending SUT+ and for their willingness to engage with USI and NUS-USI. The President finally noted that she is looking forward to continuing the close working relationship with NUS.

## 6. Items for Agreement

### 6(a) Executive Teams Plans of Work

The President proposed the circulated Executive Team Plans of Work.

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

### 6(b) Executive Team Advisory Panels

The President proposed the circulated Executive Team Advisory Panels.

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

**6(c) Proposal from Campaigns Strategy Committee**

The Deputy President and Vice President for Campaigns proposed the circulated Proposal from Campaigns Strategy Committee.

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

**6(d) Motion: Ask for Angela**

The motion: Ask for Angela was proposed by TUDSU and was seconded by AITSU and **was passed without objection.**

*Motion: Ask for Angela*

**National Council notes:**

That consent has become a point of mandatory understanding in society, particularly among the third level sector.

**National Council further notes:**

That the concern for student safety within the community is of paramount importance and that the student movement have an obligation to work with the local community wherever possible to ensure their safety.

**National Council understands:**

The Ask for Angela Campaign targets student social areas (i.e. bars, social settings, etc.) by offering a safe, easily implemented system to escape a situation that may not be safe for them to be in.

**National Council applauds:**

The work done across the country by Unions and USI around consent.

**National Council mandates:**

The Vice-President for Campaigns to work with the Vice-President to Welfare to roll out a national campaign to support, encourage and promote where possible, a National Ask for Angela Campaign each year.

**6(e) Rún: Síneadh Fada**

The amended motion: Síneadh Fada was proposed by UUSU and was seconded by QUBSU and **was passed without objection.**

Amended Motion: Síneadh Fada

**National Council notes:**

That Irish is the first language of the Irish State as outlined in the constitution and that many students on the Island of Ireland have Irish names.

**National Council further notes:**

That Ireland is one of the only countries in Europe, in which English isn't the first official language, where computer systems in State departments and in public organisations such as Iarnród Éireann, Leap Card, and the HSE, and HEI's are not equipped to process the síneadh fada or special characters.

**National Council also notes:**

That similarly in Northern Ireland there is little recognition for the síneadh fada on computer systems and within State departments.

**National Council believes:**

That people have the right to their identity and to have their name spelled correctly when dealing with state organisations and HEI's and on all identification issued by these organisations for example on student ID cards, Leap Card, and on public records such as the Register of Electors.

**National Council therefore mandates:**

For Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge to lobby public sector bodies in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland for the recognition of the síneadh fada, and for those bodies to update computer systems to allow for the síneadh fada and other special characters, as and when these systems need to be updated.

**National Council further mandates:**

Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge to work with Our Fada to roll out a campaign highlighting the importance of the síneadh fada as part of people's identity as well as a potential breach in GDPR law.

**6(f) USI Calendar 19/20 – Main Dates**

The President proposed the circulated USI Calendar 19/20 – Main Dates.

The proposal was seconded by GMITSU and **was passed without objection.**

### USI Calendar 19/20

Event/Training	Date
Casework Training Day	20th August (provisional date)
NSTEP Development Day for SUs	21st August
ASIST BMW	12th - 13th August, IT Sligo
ASIST South	21st - 22nd August, WIT
ASIST Dublin	2nd - 3rd September, IADT
Presidents Day/Deputy President & Campus Convenor Training Day	22nd August
DRCC Supporting someone in the aftermath of sexual assault and rape	29th August 9.30am-5pm
Personal Safety Campaign (Online)	16th September - 20th Sep
Class Rep Campaign (Online)	9th September - October
Voter registration	September- November
Mental Health RECharge campaign	14th October - 18th Oct
Traenáil na gCumann	11-12th October (roughly)
Pink Training	29th November - 1st December
DeStress Campaign	Nov, TBC
Self Care Christmas Campaign	Dec, TBC
Mature Students convention	25th October (rough date)
Disability awareness week (Including conference)	20th-24th January (provisional)



Women Lead	31st Jan -1st Feb (provisional)
SHAG	Feb 10th - 14th
Empower	February 24th (Provisional)
Seachtain na Gaeilge	1-17 March
Drugs and alcohol awareness	March
Body image awareness	March / April
Congress	6th - 9th April

#### **6(g) USI Budget 2019/2020**

The President and USI General Manager provided a detailed outline and breakdown of the proposed USI Budget 2019/2020 which was approved by USI Finance Committee on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2019.

The President proposed the USI Budget 2019/2020 which was seconded by WITSU and **was passed without objection.**

#### **7. Items for Discussion**

##### **7(a) #EndYouthHomelessness**

The President welcomed Emma Allen from Focus Ireland to present to the meeting details about an upcoming campaign. The speaker thanked the President for the opportunity to present at the meeting and started by highlighting a number of recent stats relating to youth homelessness. The speaker continued to outline Focus Ireland four specific action points identified to try tackle youth homelessness. The speaker noted USI involvement in the national housing crisis campaign and requested if MO's could please promote Focus Ireland youth homelessness campaign.

MSU requested if MO's could receive campaign resources. The speaker highlighted that resources can be circulated through email and if MO's contact her and she will be able to circulate the information around. GMITSU highlighted that they will be participating in the Focus Ireland upcoming sleep out in October. The speaker thanked GMITSU for their involvement and welcomed any other colleges input. The speaker also noted that they have been invited to NCAD to put up an information stall on campus. TUDSU asked if the posters are sustainable. The speaker explained that she cannot confirm for certain but noted that the posters have a gloss finish. UUSU asked

if the campaign will be rolled out in Northern Ireland. The speaker confirmed that Focus Ireland legislation is just the Republic of Ireland but noted that it is also an issue up north.

The President thanked the speaker and confirmed that USI will circulate to everyone around any contact details and resources. The President also noted the importance of this campaign and its link to the overall national campaign.

## **8. Items for Information**

### **8(a) SUT Slides**

The President confirmed that SUT slides will be circulated.

### **8(b) Entertainments Resources**

The Vice President for the Dublin Region noted that officers are welcome to join the Ents Facebook page.

### **8(c) Pink training location and dates**

The Vice President for Equality and Citizenship confirmed that Pink Training is scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> of November to the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and will be hosted by NUIG. The VPE&C explained that she will provide a further update soon.

### **8(e) Campaigns Directory**

The Vice President for the Southern Region noted that the campaigns directory will be circulated to all sabbatical officers tomorrow and each MO can contact their relevant regional or policy officer if they have any further queries.

### **8(e) Governance Review**

The President highlighted that money has been allocated to the next stage of the Governance Review and it will be used to pay for an external expert.

### **8(f) NYCI Subcommittee Nominations**

The President confirmed the following NYCI Subcommittee Nominations;

- VPAA to the International Subcommittee
- DP+VPC to the Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee
- President to the HR and Governance Subcommittee

### **8(g) Policy Tracker**

The President highlighted that any updates on policies and motions will be circulated with the Executive Team Reports.

**8(h) Voter Registration**

The Vice President for Equality and Citizenship outlined that herself and the VPDR will be working together to deliver a voter registration campaign during Fresher weeks and then again in November. The VPE&C also confirmed that resources will be circulated out in August.

**8(i) Strategic Plan Sub Committee**

The President explained that a Strategic Plan for the organisation will be brought to Congress and a detailed update will be provided at the December National Council. The President also invited officers to get involved in the Strategic Plan Sub Committee work.

**8(j) Media Report**

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

**9. Any Other Business**

TUDSU requested clarification on what is the actual process for choosing locations for Pink Training. The VPE&C confirmed that the decision for this year’s Pink Training was decided last year and noted that only a limited number of places can host the event due to hostel numbers and cost. The President added that the whole process requires a large amount of availability of beds in hostels which limits the scope of where the event can be held. The President also noted that several factors have to be considered such as conducting a cost analysis and the facilities of the host college.

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The President thanked everyone for their contribution and involvement during the last two days. The President expressed their sincere thanks to the whole UUSU team for organising everything and for their excellent hospitality and welcome.

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The Chairperson thanked UUSU for hosting today’s meeting and wished everyone all the best for the remainder of SUT+ before closing the meeting.