

# **Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ**

*National Council of the Union of Students in Ireland*

*August 2022*

## **Miontuairiscí/Minutes**

**Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ/National Council USI, NC 62.10**

**30th September 2022 – OTO/SETU WD and online**

**Chairperson:** Jack Leahy

**Deputy Chairperson:** Sean Gordon Dalton

## **NAMES APPEARING ON THE ATTENDANCE LIST:**

*Please note: As this was a hybrid meeting, some of those joining online who were not on the call at the time that attendance was noted may not be on the list. If your name is not on the list and you were in attendance, please email [president@usi.ie](mailto:president@usi.ie) to have the record corrected.*

### **Coiste Gnó**

Beth O'Reilly, President

Clodagh McGivern, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Sarah Behan [online], Vice President for Welfare

Maeve Richardson, Vice President for Equality & Citizenship

Ross Boyd, Vice President for Campaigns

Hannah Brennan, Vice President for the Border, Midlands, and Western Region

Caoimhe Walsh, Vice President for the Southern Region

Sierra Müller-Owens, Vice President for the Dublin Region

Róisín Nic Lochlainn, Leas-Uachtarán don Gaeilge

## **Apologies**

### **1. Elections/Toghcháin**

#### ***a. Election of the USI Steering Committee***

4 candidates put themselves forward for 4 positions on the USI Steering Committee:

Aoife Deasy

Niamh Murtaugh

Emma Sweeney

Emma Conway

After agreement by acclamation, all the candidates were duly elected to the Steering Committee.

#### ***b. Election of the USI Governance Committee***

The following candidates put themselves forward for the two USI Governance Committee:

Mark Dunne (SETU CW)

Rebecca Allen (UUSU)

Niall Naughton (TUSSU)

Stephen O’Riordan (UCCSU)

Zoe Cummins (TCDSU)

X and Y were declared elected.

#### ***c. Election of the USI Campaigns Strategy Committee***

**BMW**

Barry Ó Siochrú (CML OnG)

Niamh Fallon (DKITSU)

**Dublin Region**

Nathan Murphy (DCUSU)

Bev Genockey (TCDSU)

Luke Pendlebury (NCADSU)

László Molnárfi (TCDSU)

**Southern Region**

Bryan O'Mahony (SETSU W)

Sinéad Roche (UCCSU)

Kelda McManus (MTUSU Cork)

**NUS-USI**

Aidan Moran (QUBSU)

As the only delegation with excess candidates is the Dublin Region, an election shall only be held to select members from the Dublin delegation.

***d. By-Election for the position of Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge***

One candidate put themselves forward for the role:

Orlagh Ní Coistealbha, (CML OnG)

Election speeches follow, with three minutes for the candidate running for LU don Ghaeilge.

Speeches of 2 minutes are afforded to all other candidates. The speeches are then followed by a question session.

*Voting takes place.*

## **2. 5 Minute Break [15:10]**

### **3. Minutes / Miontuairiscí**

The minutes of the meeting which occurred at CMLOÉG/NUIGSU were proposed by CG and seconded by X.

The minutes were approved.

The minutes of the meeting which occurred at UUSU were proposed by (UCCSU?) and seconded by TUDSU.

The minutes were approved.

A correction will be made to attendance of the UUSU minutes.

### **4. Matters Arising / Nithe ag Éirí Astu**

None.

### **5. Executive Team Reports / Tuairiscí an Choiste Ghnó**

The Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs had nothing to add to their report. The Postgraduate Affairs Committee will be meeting tomorrow. There were no questions for the Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs.

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

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The Leas-Uachtarán don Gaeilge had nothing to add to their report. They discussed their work with Conradh na Gaeilge and wished the new Leas-Uachtarán well in their role. They noted that a guide should be sent out to SUs soon with a template for Irish language strategies, and updated terminology. They clarified that they were unable to attend MTU due to a covid scare.

NUG thanks the Leas-Uachtarán for their work in NUIG and on CG. There were no other questions for the Leas-Uachtarán don Gaeilge.

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The Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region had nothing to add to their report. They noted that their expenses would go up next month as they have

not been claiming fuel expenses to date. There were no questions for the Vice President.

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The Vice President for the Dublin Region looks forward to the projects they will be completing this term, as outlined in their report. They have enjoyed visiting campuses and are more than happy to continue visit if invited.

Notes that expenses vary and will work with the GM to formulate a written policy on expenses claims.

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The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship thanked members for their engagement thus far on the various elements of their role and invited other members to reach out if there any elements of the Equality & Citizenship brief that they would like to discuss.

They offered apologies for uploading their reports late and encouraged people to scrutinise them at the committee meeting tomorrow. Has been requested to investigate issues of discrimination and work is ongoing. They have recently come back from sick leave and are still not fully recovered so are not working at 100% capacity but hope to be fully recovered in a week.

Questions:

The VP was asked when X meeting would take place and noted it would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of December.

TUDSU congratulated the VP for their work so far regarding SUSI, training sessions, and help with immigration processes.

The President requested that speakers please speak up.

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The Vice President for Campaigns thanked all who attended the pre-budget lobby day. Acknowledges communication issues. Wishes best of luck to the new Leas-Uachtarán.

Questions:

IADTSU asked if the VP had any plans to make sure that communications issues don't happen again in the future.

The VP explained that work was on going to achieve this and noted their desire to work with student activists and do so successfully.

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## **T.W.**

The Vice President for Welfare explains that they are working from home and attend CN online due to mental health reasons. Welfare working group will be online tomorrow.

Notes a letter written to the Department of Health about substance abuse. They provided updates regarding HSE STI testing kits, which are limited to certain countries. They hope that it will be extended to all counties in ROI soon.

They have been working on a sexual violence poster with Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and thanked the GM for their help.

Takes rest of report as read.

Questions:

ATUSSU asked for update on stalker awareness campaign.

The VP explained that a previous meeting with Stalking Ireland had to be rescheduled. They noted their own lack of experience in this area and will be relying on expert advice.

DCUSU thank the VP for their work to date.

ATUSSU requests that the VP work directly with Eve McDowell and appreciates the work done to date.

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The Vice President for Academic Affairs had nothing to add to their report.

An Election supports package was recently shared and the VP requests that it be distributed to all class reps. They note their ongoing Academic Integrity talks with SUs, and advisement on policies to implement.

N-Step said they would have a briefing session with sabbats unsure if they should engage with N-step. The VP will send out a doodle poll, select a few days, and organise a briefing.

Questions:

A query about expenses being a typo was confirmed.

The VP notes that students less likely to experience depression and other mental health issues if they engage in extra curriculars, so the VP wants to work with each University to formulate a policy that they can present to their respective Councils.

MTUKSU asked what remits the VP is working on.

Funding has a cut off point, and all should be spent. Hope to extend funding and use some for online curriculums

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The President apologised to candidates regarding lack of clarity around elections and will have a briefing with the Steering Committee after this meeting.

The President discussed lobbying Minister Harris in relation to the HEA Bill and his plans for future SU Bill.

The President congratulated the VP for Campaigns on the pre-budget submission lobbying day.

The President noted they are engaging with several TDs, including Gary Gannon on digs legislation.

The President discussed the Cost-of-Living march and new avenues to get more students on to the streets.

The President took the rest of their report as read.

Questions:

TCDSU asked that if CG is visiting campuses that the SU President's specifically are informed.

TCDSU enquires about recent meeting with Minister Harris

The President explained that they discussed accommodation, digs, publicly funded accommodation, and the pre-budget submission. The Minister seemed receptive however, the budget did not feature the requests that were expected. The President noted that the USI should not rely on the Government for information and how we shape our actions.

The President clarified that the USI wants the €100k funding for drug prevention to be used specially for harm prevention.

They note another follow up meeting is meant to happen regarding the Post-grad stipend.

The President will send around a survey soon and would like SU Presidents' input for the questions.

DCUSU ask the President to accept their thanks.

The President informs CN that they have chosen the VP for Equality & Citizenship as their deputy. The nomination was noted.

## 6. Items for Agreement / Le Socrú

### a. Standing Orders

The President notes that CN does not have standing orders, so she compiled some using the Congress standing orders as a template. The President recommends that it be 9D'd to next CN to get more feedback.

TCDSU second this procedural motion.

Nobody speaks against the procedural motion and it carries.

TCDSU asks how feedback can be offered will work. The President will send out a form.

### b. Coiste Gnó Plans of Work

1. There are no questions or contributions to the VP for the Southern region and the plan of work is approved.
2. There are no questions or contributions to the VP for Postgraduate Affairs [represented by the President], and the plan of work is approved.
3. There are no questions or contributions to the VP for the BMW region and the plan of work is approved.
4. There are no questions or contributions to the VP for the Dublin region and the plan of work is approved.
5. The VP for Equality & Citizenship has yet to circulate their plan of work, and it is not approved.
6. There are no questions or contributions to the VP for Academic Affairs and the plan of work is approved.
7. There are no questions or contributions to the VP for Campaigns and the plan of work is approved.
8. There are no questions or contributions to the VP for Welfare and the plan of work is approved.
9. There are no questions or contributions to the USI President, and the plan of work is approved.

**[5 Minute break]**



c. Coiste Gnó Advisory Panels

All panels were presented by President as one vote and passed.

d. Constitutional Review Committee [USI Coiste Gnó]

e. Standardisation of International and Postgraduate Fees [USI Coiste Gnó]

- Deferred to PG working group next day as VP was not present

f. Motion to Abolish NDA'S in the Cases of Sexual Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination

- Procedural motion - removal of last mandate
- Proposal from TCDSU to remove Education - not carried
- Motion to defer to next welfare WG - passed

## **7. Items for Discussion / Le Plé**

a. Stráitéis na Gaeilge [LU don Ghaeilge]

- Not discussed

b. Financial Update [USI General Manager]

- Presented

c. Budget [USI General Manager]

- Budget should have been on the agenda for approval. It was under items for discussion. It was corrected and it was approved.

## **7. Items for Information / Pointí Eolais**

Cost of College Campaign [VP Campaigns]

**8. A.O.B. / A.G.E.**