



## Postgraduate Working Group

Location: TUSS Athlone & Zoom

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Time: 12:30-13:30

### *Miontuairiscí/ Minutes*

#### **Present: -**

Waqar Ahmed (Chair, USI), Ross Boyd (USI), Christine O'Mahony (DCUSU), Asha Woodhouse (UCCSU), Isobel Kavanagh (MTUCSU), Kevin Pakenham (TUSSU), Bryan O'Mahony (SETUSU Waterford), Oisín Gahan (MTUCSU), Joe Mee (CMLOG), Shahboz Babaev (TUSSU), Fernandos Ongolly (Non-EEA PhD Students Society-Ireland), Dan Pierce (UCCSU)

#### **Apologies: -**

Jessica Perez (TUDSU), Raimey O'Boyle (NUIGSU)

#### **1. Minutes of Meeting: -**

The minutes of meeting were taken and approved as read.

#### **2. Matters Arising from Minutes:-**

No matter arising from the minutes.

#### **3. Items for Discussion**

Noting that the PCAU have emailed multiple MOs about their fair rights charter, which given we support as USI is good to support from MOs side too. A question about logo usage, which VP Postgrad says is okay if they ask for it.

Talking about the motion proposed by the VP Postgrad to mandate the VP Postgrad to lobby DFHERIS on the USI Postgraduate Researchers Rights Charter, to change definition of a postgraduate, support grassroots campaigns and repeal an older motion.

Question on defining what “supporting grassroots groups” are from TUSSU, VP Postgrad says it means working together on campaigns and raising issues from them on committees. TUSSU VP for Postgrad appreciates but feels this could be interpreted differently into rather what specific supports can be done and what campaigns are appropriate based on the wording.

Suggestion to create the additions on this part of the mandate on additional wording and slight wording changes.

Focusing on 16 points, available below the motion itself. Suggestion from UCCSU to make specific what living wage is paid, to specify either the statutory or non-statutory living wage. Question from CMLOG and follow up from UCCSU about language choice between salary and stipend, and how this will be defined. VP Postgrad says wording was chosen specifically to ensure that aims can be seen as postgrads as employed.

Question on appropriate supervision and the right to change supervisors as if it should be mentioned or added in the description. Agreed to add it too.

Question on the right to be represented by a union, noting that some postgrads could be seen as employees rather than students in a students’ union or if it should be both. VP Postgrad says it should feel that students’ union representation should be as equally represented as a trade union in this.

VP PGA thanked everyone for their attendance and participation before closing the meeting. The next meeting is to be held in January.

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