**Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ**

*National Council of the Union of Students in Ireland*

*September 2023*

**Miontuairiscí/Minutes**

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

**8th September 2023 – MTU Cork 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 seangordondalton@gmail.com to have the record corrected.*

**ATUSSU**

X

**ATUGMSU**

X

**CCSU**

**X**

**DCUSU**

X

**DKITSU**

Holly Lambe-Sally

**IADTSU**

Tiernan Mason, Crow Mullen

**MTUCSU**

Eva Marie Corcoran, Oisín Gaman, Isobel Kavanagh

**MTUKSU**

Stephen Fogarty, Niamh Doherty

**MSU**

X

**NCADSU**

Andrew Grace, Meabh Quinn

**NCISU**

Eimear Annesley, Tre Robert, Jordan Buckley

**CMLOÉG/NUGSU**

Izzy Tiernan, Faye Ní Dhomnaill, Raimey O’Boyle, Dean Kenny

**QUBSU**

X

**SETUSU.CW**

X

**SETUSU.WD**

X

**STACSSU**

X

**TCDSU**

László Molnárfi

**TUDSU**

Ian Kelly, Sheran Bahodir, Peter McCann

**TUSSU**

José Fernandes, Dara Lenihan, Kyran Keogh, Darcy Lawless, Gearóid Folan, James Skerritt

**UCCSU**

Hayley O’Connell, Stephen O’Riordan, Dan Pierse

**UUSU**

X

**Coiste Gnó**

Chris Clifford, President

Bryan O’Mahony, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Colette Murphy, Vice President for Welfare

Zaid Al Bargouthi, Vice President for Campaigns

Aoife Hynes, Vice President for the Border, Midlands, and Western Region

Nathan Murphy, Vice President for the Dublin Region

Kelda McManus, Vice President for the Southern Region

Bláithín Nic A t-Sithigh, Leas-Uachtarán don Gaeilge

**Apologies**

Chloe Ferguson, President NUS USI

James Curry, Vice President for Equality & Citizenship

Muhammed Mubashar Saeed, Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs

Chairs moves to move the financial report to after elections. This is agreed.

***1*. Minutes / Miontuairiscí**

The minutes of the meeting which occurred at Tralee were proposed by IADTSU and seconded by the CG.

Corrections to the previous minutes - Louise on campaigns was misnamed Lazlo and Brian Jordan was listed as DCUSU instead of TUDSU.

The minutes were approved.

**2. Elections / Toghcháin**

**a. Campaigns Strategy Committee - 2 x NUS-USI Region, 1 x BMW Region**

Aidan Moran and Saj Khan – chair proposes to elect by acclamation.

Saj flags that Fiona from UU did intend to put herself forward. The Chair clarifies taht her nomination wasn’t deemed valid by the EC.

Aidan Moran and Saj Khan are elected by acclamation.

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BMW election:

Holly Lambe-Sally - DKITSU

Faye Ní Domhnaill - CMLOG

Ní Domhnaill delivered their candidates speech. There were no questions.

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The Chair proposes that CN bring forward the financial update on the agenda. This is agreed to.

**3. Items for Approval / Le Plé**

a. Financial Update (USI General Manager)

GM delivers proposed budget online to CN. GM notes that some of the info in the financial updates is commercially sensitive and for CN only. The GM outlines the Budget for coming year.

Questions:

Stiofán Ó Ríordán, UCCSU – Refers to the provision to reserve funding for a permanent office, and enquires as to the timeframe on that?

The GM confirms that this won’t happen in next two years because we currently have a lease on the current office for 7 years, but there’s a break provision in 2 years.

The Budget is approved unanimously.

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The GM delivers the financial update.

There were no questions or contributions.

**3. Executive Team Reports / Tuairiscí an Choiste Ghnó**

1. President NUS-USI – Not present.

There were no questions for the USI President to put to the NUS-USI President.

1. The Vice President for Postgrad – Not present.

There were no questions for the USI President to put to the NUS-USI

President.

1. The Vice President for Dublin takes their report as read.

There were no questions to the USI President for the VP.

1. The Vice President for South takes their report as read.

There were no questions to the USI President for the VP.

1. The Vice President for BMW takes their report as read.

There were no questions to the USI President for the VP.

1. The Vice President for E&C – Not present.

There were no questions to the USI President for the VP.

1. The Vice President for Welfare notes the childcare survey currently going on. Graphics will be sent out in Nov/Ded and would appreciate everyone’s support. Also running a campaign around ‘money mules’, advise students to go to SU or contact USI who can then contact the guards or Banking federation. The VP takes the rest of their report as read.

There were no questions to the USI President for the VP.

1. The Vice President for Campaigns takes their report as read but notes USI will be having national pre-budget demo in Dublin on Oct 4th. This was addressed in campaign working group and will soon be address in campaign strategy committee. You will receive info soon and the last bit of info will be proved at least 15 days before the demo. If you need special supports or accommodations, please get in touch as early as possible. Will be pushing budget campaign between now and then and encourage people to take part. Tuesday the 3rd not Wednesday the 4th.  The Cost of Living Coalition demo will be supported by USI.

Questions:

Clarification on the date from Maeve Quinn NCADSU. The VP confirms it is definitely Tuesday 3rd.

1. The Vice President for AA takes their report as read.

Questions:

Stiofán UCC – great to see the work done on survey, is there any indication if they’re taking the feedback on board?

AA doesn’t think so, but has arranged another meeting with Programme manager, co-sponsors and MOs to give SU officers to air concerns and find out more info.

1. The Vice President for Irish language takes their report as read.

No Questions.

1. The President takes their report as read

Questions:

Crow Mullen, IADTSU– it was mentioned in EC an Campaigns that there is the demo on the 16th for Trans Pride Dublin. Can we expect any plans from USI on that?

The President informs CN that E&C discussed this yesterday, and the President will work on a plan with VP Campaigns to be ready for end of next week.

**4. Items for Approval / Le Socrú**

a. Nomination of USI Deputy President (USI President)

PRES explains the Coiste put it to an internal vote rather than Pres picking. Any Qs on the process? There was an internal husting, and then it went to a vote.

Carried unanimously.

b. Motion re: eBook Licensing (TCDSU)

The TCDUSU President says this should be included in the USI pre-budget submission– big camping supported by 1000s, the campaign exposed how exploitative publishing campaigns are. This adversely affects students and libraries + taxpayers who pay so much money to buy eBooks. The campaign has a list of demands that USI should support. The TCDUSU President wrote this proposal with the consultation of TCD Library staff and the campaign.

VP Campaigns clarifies that SUT+ had a budget submission consultation session. This item was submitted, and the CG has agreed to bring it to the submission as costs. Something about Media. Plan is that it be included in the submission, but the rest of the submission will be the same as seen by everyone in Belfast.

The TCDUSU President summates and asks everyone vote in favour.

Item approved as policy.

c. Terms of Reference for An Coiste Cultúrtha (LÚ don Ghaeilge)

Chair notes the primary document is as Gaeilge, there is a translated doc available. LUdG has to chair the COISTE CULTURTHA, in terms of reference you can propose amendments in future, but would like them to pas today. Welcomes any Qs.

LUdG summates and encourages to all to vote in favour.

Passed unanimously.

d. Proposal to join the National Anti-Apartheid Coalition (USI VP Campaigns)

The VP explains the coalition was formed by Sen Frances Black, currently on TCD BDS is a student member. It doesn’t impose any extra obligations on USI apart from the ones already brought into effect by the BGDS motion brought to congress by TCDSU. It’s a group or unions, NGOs, amnesty etc. They’re eager for us to join and in my professional opinion it will help coordinate national efforts to meet out mandates. The ToR are decided by the coalition not to be circulated as they are confidential, but VP Campaigns seen and contributed to them. He can share them by request but notes that they cannot be reshared.

Approved unanimously.

Ian McKay, CMLOG – what sort of actions will be anticipated from USI? The VP says USIs position on this is based on the vales of the BDS movement, so any actions would be taken by the CG in line with our mandate.

Faye NÍ Domhnaill - Does this create an open-ended goal, or is there defined goals with timelines? Zaid notes that soe of our policies are perpetually on file because they don’t have defined end goals, and this can be frustrating but says that the end point from a BDS point of view would be for the state to adopt a BDS stance and support other BDS groups.

Passed unanimously.

e. Plan Of Work (Coiste Gnó)

VP Academic Affairs proposes taking them as read and being open to questions from the floor. Chair supports this suggestion.

Some people are unable to access them, so the Chair proposes CG go through their plans briefly.

**VP Campaigns-** apologises for their incomplete plan of work but have been very busy with pre-budget submission. Would like input from Campaigns strategy committee into his Plan of work. Elections to it only finished today so didn’t want to hand in a plan that was subject to change in a month but have outlined the diff between strategy group and working group – on is representative and one is implementation. Plan is to keep frequent communication with and between the two groups. The USI is in a position to achieve its goals or stand up and say why it didn’t achieve them. CN will be able to see the input that was put into our campaigns, what was approved and what wasn’t in the form of minutes from the strategy committee. Would like to clarify the role of VP Campaigns – shouldn’t be in charge of deciding what we campaign on but should be facilitating our MOs to engage in their campaigns and policy officers to collaborate. Believes in proactive campaigns and not reactive campaigning. Set the tone with that with an early lobby day and submitting the pre-budget submission a month before the budget rather than only a day before. Gives student opportunity to engage in the planning stage rather than just the implementation stage. Apologies again, pre0budegt submission was main priority but the plan of work proposed has the info needed for now. Will propose a full plan in the future.

**VP Dublin**- for the first semester, will write a new one in semester 2, went through it in SUT+, voter reg, constitutional review, PTO training, campus visits, the Dublin working group will decide what we work on for SUT and the year.

Izzy Tiernen CMLOG – having plans for two semester and not one annual plan means that work might not actually be done because some officers will be losing interest as they are close to finishing their terms. Would appreciate an outline of an annual plan to prevent this.

Plan of work approved.

**VP Academic Affairs** – have kept it lose re timeline because education is constantly evolving and didn’t want to be too tied to timelines – working with NSTEP to make sure it has effective governance, making sure SU have constant buy in thought the year by attending their NSTEP meeting. Student survey to engage SUs are effectively engaged in the whole lifetime of the survey including analysis afterwards. Want to make sure SUs can meet programme mangers and highlight concerns about the surveys. Partnerships with trade unions to make sure that when we work to gather and have a stronger voice. Work on student placement survey that was out last year and work with Zaid to have a campaign to support students on placement better, especially financially. Creative students to look at providing financial aid for costs or Materials. Policy development collaboration to support Most thought the year no relevant policy areas, and ensure all AA work is inclusive of the context in NI

Policy development- support MOs with their policy work and emerging issue. Funding for access, additional costs and hidden costs that impact access to education. Reforms to funding and make sure USI take all-island approach.

Partnership with TU mergers and development. Support MOs in lobbying for improved inclusion in college structures.

Pan approved.

**VP Welfare** – general overview – semester 1 working on digs survey is top priority over next few weeks for lobbying purposes. Lots of welfare resources and campaigns are info to share with student. Mental health campaign and run a nitinol student mental health survey. Drug harm reduction is a top priority and sexual health campaigns. Nigh time support engaging with relevant stakeholders. One day we’re mandated to mark suicide prevention day so if you’re available after NC to take part in a video we’re doing for suicide prevention day on Sunday, please do. Exam destress coming up. Childcare survey coming up to lobby for some resources for student parents and capture data to their specific issues. Part of the Peer Consortium, so they all meet together every year, but they don’t have a specific ask when it comes to lobbying so will work with them this year to include in our lobbying.

No questions.

Approved.

**VP E&C**- Pres proposes to push to the next CN, as James is at an All-island youth forum with Chloe Ferguson.

**VP BMW**- plan on looking at constitutional review, voter reg drives, campus visits, PTO training done regionally. Public transport has been added since spoken about SUT+ obviously brough tin the policy that only student leap cards regarding being accepted by the NTA. We now have contact with the student rep on the NTA to see why this decision was made. Their 2-year term is coming to and end soon so we’re hoping USI can take a seat on that board.

No questions

Approved

**LUdG** – went though it in last 2 working groups, first point is SÍ NAFADA, now a legal requirement to come in in Oct so that fadas are included on student names. Info campaigns on fadas, why they’re used etc. Scéim teanga will be reviewed this year, and will support Irish officers and society, Support MOs with no Irish officer. Fáinne for Irish speakers but hoping to work with Conraith na Gaeilge to run campaigns in MOs, has a mandate to chair Irish language programme I the North, but have agreed that a UU officer will chair as an Irish speaker from NI. Will provide campaigns materials through Irish.

No questions.

Approved.

**USI PRES-** Takes plan of work as read and welcomes questions.

Crowe Mullen asks for Plans of Work to be out up on screen and asks about the vote for the constitutional committee. The President says they’ll do it internally first and then bring to CN and Governance to come to useful middle grounds.

No other questions. Approved.

VP BMW requests that Plan of work come to the next CN.

f. Advisory Panel (Coiste Gnó)

Chair notes the doc has been circulated so doesn’t need to name every individual but suggest CG can give an overview.

LUdG is still waiting to hear back from some people.

Chair proposes putting all advisory panels to one vote of approval.

CN votes to approve.

Emergency item for Approval

South – requesting approval to take on part time study. Had a conversation with working group and MOs. Its evening classes, 8 hours a week, continuous assessment no exams. This isn’t the first time its been done, some policy officers have studied alongside their jobs as well. I wouldn’t apply if I didn’t think I could do both. Happy to have a proper convo with anyone about this on zoom, call or on campus.

Open to questions

Kayleigh O‘Connell – UCCSU – this is a big deal for our Rep to dothis and UCC have voted against this and are happy to discuss this but would have appreciate a document circulated in advance.

South only applied in the last 2 weeks and spoke to Coiste, but noted it had to be approved before starting s had to apply before bringing it to CN.

Proposal approved.

**Elections Results – Campaign Strategy BMW**

Faye Ní Domhnaill is deemed elected on first count.

**6. Items for Information / Pointí Eolais**

a. Media Report (USI President)

April to June – The President informs CN that engagement has been up significantly recently, with topics raised including PHD supports, BDS, leaving vert results, High cost of rent, no confidence in the government, Spiking, vapes, electoral reform, and Cllr Deirdre Conroy

b. Forsa Industrial Strike (USI VP AA)

An agreement has been reached with the HSE, so the strike action is no longer going ahead. Students o placement will no longer be affected. The VP will be meeting with them next week to discuss.

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

Dean Kenny, CMLOG – couldn’t access the SharePoint, would appreciate that being checked for future CNs. The President will look at another way of doing it.

The President asks that CN sing happy birthday to Dean.