**UL Student Council 2022 / 23**

**Meeting 1**

# Minutes

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|  | **Meeting** | **:** | **UL Student Life Council** | | | |
|  | **Date** | **:** | **September 27th 2022 (Semester 1 – Week 4)** | | | |
|  | **Venue** | **:** | **Zoom** |  | | |
|  | **Time** | **:** | **6pm** |  | | |
|  | **Members: Maeve Gilmore; Kieran Guiry; Laura Corcoran; Louis Pemble; Eoghan O’ Mahony; Niamh Hickey; Aldrin Sam William; Ahmed Mirza; Amanda Moloney; Evan Mansfield; Ciara O Flynn; Ella Fay; Katie Martin; Ronan Cahill; Gareth Moore, Drishiti Singhal; Kaustubh Katti;**    **In Attendance: Gillian O’ Gorman; Siobhán Wilmott;**  **Apologies: Edel Straum** | | | | | |
| ***No.*** | ***Items***  Eoghan welcomed everyone to Student Council. | | | | ***Responsible*** | ***Time Allocation*** |
| **1.** | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  Minutes of Council Meeting – 29th March 2022  The Minutes of Council meeting from 29th March 2022 were approved.  Proposed by: Laura Corcoran Seconded by: Niamh Hickey  **Matters Arising**  Louis Pemble   1. Raised that there was a motion at the last meeting not to discriminate based on nationality – couldn’t see changes made to Bye-Law online. Action: Gillian has updated Bye-Law, ULSL were meant to be moving website platform to MSL, this has been delayed & the updated Bye-Law was not updated on the website. Gillian to update website to the amended Bye-Law. 2. Raised that at the last Council meeting there was a vote to have blended meetings this semester & queried why we were not following this as this meeting was online & not blended as per vote. Gillian outlined that we are following student feedback & requested that she could update Council at her agenda point of discussion on the Student Council format. | | | | Eoghan | **5 Mins** |
| **2.** | **Meeting Business** | | | |  |  |
| **A.**  **B.**  **C.**  **D.** | Introductions – Siobhán did an ice-breaker activity for everyone introduce themselves & to name a TV show or some music people are watching or listening to.  **What is Student Council & Format (Bye Law)**  Gillian welcomed everyone to Council and introduced her role as Head of Leadership & Representation Department in UL Student Life. The department is responsible for upholding the Representation framework along with the constitution and bye-laws. Every decision that is made within Leadership & Representation goes to Student Council. Gillian & Siobhán work together in the department and attend meetings to support members of Exec & Council in their roles. Gillian encouraged members to make Council a meaningful experience for all. Be engaged and ask questions & offered students to meet with her individually or as a group if they have any questions about the bye-laws or any issues relating to governance. She reminded Council that they received a link to the bye-laws in the welcome email sent to them & encouraged them to review the bye-laws if they have not already done so. Gillian outlined the importance of the role of Eoghan as Student Council Chairperson as the link between the board of directors & Student Council, bringing any updates to Council to ensure good governance & to keep Council updated on budgets, strategic developments etc. when the information is ready to be shared. Gillian outlined the function of agenda items, Exec Reports & the Exec Oversight Committee – she outlined the importance of Council members reading all reports & paperwork posted to Teams before meetings as meetings are about discussion & decision making. She also outlined voting, motions & the role of the Chairperson – signposted members to read standing orders section of the bye-law. Offered her email to take questions or to arrange a meeting to take Qs.  **Meeting Format**  Gillian reference Louis earlier point about a vote made in council to have blended meetings. Gillian outlined the increased student engagement LRO observed with online meetings. She also outlined the feedback received from student parents & commuter students during the summer, she also referenced a poll that was emailed to students & only 6 people voted. Discussion had about having a blended meeting, looking at how we can facilitate that with technology. Gillian updated Council that options given last year were online, in-person or rotating between both due to previous point. Both presidents gave feedback, Maeve reference commuter students & presented feedback from the survey & highlighted commuter students favouring online meetings. Maeve looking at hybrid & Gillian to support. Louis referenced that UL use the library room as a hybrid as it works well – suggested that this is the way to go. Evan gave feedback for his online preference due to being in America & on placement in semester 2.  **Student Council poll** – 19 on meeting, 17 voted (minus 2 staff who didn’t vote). 7 for in-person, 5 online, 5 rotating in-person & Online.  **Action:** next meeting will be in person & we will try to trial hybrid meetings. Gillian to work with student officers to support this.  Maeve president asked council what should she tell students who want to get involved in council but can’t if meetings are in person? Asked for email after this meeting. Louis is confident hybrid meeting in the library will work.  Gillian highlighted Class Rep numbers are down 50% by last year – discussion had on engagement barriers & recruitment ideas. Academic Officer updated what he is doing regarding recruitment as did LRO.  **Communication**  Siobhán outlined that the main communication will be via Teams – Student Council can email Siobhán with any Qs or for support. Reminders for agenda items, reports etc. posted there.  **Leaders for Life**  Outlined new online programme for student reps, 3 programs – induction is compulsory & the rest of the programme is optional. Gillian outlined some of the learning modules in the programme. Registration link will be sent this week. Students will get a digital cert & there will be a launch event.  Meeting Dates for the Year  The meeting dates were shared on screen.  ○ Executive Meetings ○ Council Meetings  ○ Student Forums ○ Class Rep Forums  ○ Student Officer Elections ○ Charity Week.  Siobhán explained the change of dates for the elections due to Charity week being moved – Louis has no objection but questioned if moving charity week to week 9 warranted a discussion?  Maeve president took Qs on the change of Charity week date outlining why it had to be changed (exams, race day, weather etc.). Asked for student feedback & looked at academic calendar, noted a lot of thought & feedback put into this. Feedback given from council that new elections date’s suit 4th years better as it is before FYP submissions. Discussion had about ‘unofficial’ charity week – noted out of our control & this issue has not happened with change of Freshers Week.  Council approved the meeting dates.  Proposed by: Niamh Hickey Seconded by: Kieran Guiry | | | | Siobhán  Gillian  Siobhán | **15 Mins**  **5 Mins** |
| **E.** | PVA  Siobhán explained that all members of Council can apply to the President’s Volunteer Awards. The Award recognises the voluntary contributions of students to campus & beyond.  Siobhán advised Council to keep a record of time spent attending Council meetings and also Council work outside of fortnightly meetings.  Council members were advised to submit hours regularly each week to avoid full last minute submissions at the end of the academic year. | | | |  | **5 Mins** |
| **F.** | ● Exec Reports  The work of each student representative member of Exec is included in the Exec reports. Members of Council are expected to read the reports in advance of each Council meeting. Exec will summarise their reports at Council.  **President (Maeve)**   * Summer – outline training undertaken Threshold, WRAP, and Performance Nerds etc. * Meetings – CCO & UL President & Provost all going well. Seem to be on same page which is benefiting students, * Welcome 1st years on campus – 8 talks in total. * GA – raised concerns about accommodation crisis, 80 new beds in Rhebogue, highlighted importance of pontoon reconstruction on behalf of C&S & students. Construction nearly complete. * Lobby regarding accommodation still a priority. Waiting on survey results. * Awaiting a meeting with Minister Simon Harris – UL trying to support this. * Governing Authority Sub Groups – GA Finance HR Asset Management meeting: agreed 50% decrease in student levy for one academic year – reviewing bye-laws in relation to the referendum voting in levy, looking like not having to bring the reduction change to a referendum as changes due to construction ceasing, still reviewing & will update council at next meeting. * PCC Board Meeting: PCC are the landlords of UL, Stables and Scholars have not renewed their tender and now my focus in conjunction with PSU is to maintain a safe, engaging, fun place on campus that is student focused   **DP Welfare Officer**   * Summer- Trainings: LUCIE, Safe Talk, Consent, Media, WRAP, SISC * Collaborations with ATUSU,MISU and UCDSU * Student Engagement: one of my favorite aspects of the job * Pop ups in courtyard, C&S Fair, Welfare Wednesday, Orientation Tent talks * Student Representation: * Meeting with Kieran Tuite regarding potential solutions to parking on campus * Finalizing input for Mental Health survey to be released in Week 6 and passing in through committees and external bodies- should have finalized and ready to go end of week * Meeting organized with Health Centre to discuss free female contraception   **VP Academic Officer**   * Had a busy summer, with lots of very beneficial trainings. Wrap, Ollie(LUCIE), Media, Performance nerds * Pop-ups in courtyard – trying to recruit as many reps as possible * 1st year Orientation went really well! Students were really engaged in the representation structure. Each cohort received an introduction to both class reps and Student Council. * Great buzz around campus with students back, Freshers week going well * Collaboration with 5 learning centers | | | |  | **15 Mins**  **Maeve R**  **Maeve G**  **Kieran** |
|  | **VP Communities Officer**  Committed to meaningful engagement via Three pronged engagement approach   * Coffee with Communities, Sanctuary engagement event * Direct Engagement with Club and Societies Committees * Engagement to have direct input into the structures of events and campaigns of the year ahead * Leading the Accommodation resources, survey and social media initiative * Art unveiling Friday 09/09 of piece of art commission in collaboration with EDI to represent ULSL as a safe space and supporter organization of the LGBTQI+ community   **PSU President**   * Launched break club for free * Extended opening hours to include weekend – noted limited services for students outside of the library * Looking to have better travel links, bike sheds is a priority with smarter travel * Timetabling – looking to get them earlier, meeting with Fintan Breen, noted needs of student parents, commuter students etc.   **Chairperson**   * Representation recruitment with student officers in courtyard – emailing students interested in joining * Attended C&S fair for recruitment * Attended C&S first Exec to see what is coming up for C&S   **Faculty Officer**   * Attended pop-ups & helping LRO with representation recruitment * Working with Siobhán to coordinate NSteP Training * Working with Siobhán to arrange an interview with Limerick Voice to discuss representation. * Meeting with Kieran to discuss Class Rep Forum & Leaders for Life * Going into classed to recruit reps   No updates from the rest of Exec. | | | | Laura  Louis  Eoghan  Niamh |  |
| G. | **Accommodation Survey & Photo Submission**  Laura updated currentstats – nearly at 1,200 completed & hoping to get to 1,500 by next week.  Shared report from last week numbers & outlined aims & findings.  29% still looking for accommodation & 16.1% commuting. Outlined the increased number of commuter students due to not having somewhere to live. Stats will be used to support parking being raised as an issue at GA. Laura explained stats. Laura asked Council for feedback & encouraged members to work with her – outlined collaboration with Photo Soc to document the accommodation crisis. Discussion had about issues with public transport & being late for college. Urged to encourage students to complete survey – stats will be used to lobby for positive change. | | | | Laura | **5 Mins** |
| H. | **Accommodation Working Group**  Maeve asked for feedback regarding setting up an Accommodation Working Group where any student could join this WG. The purpose of the group is to get the student voice heard & to relook at previous ideas, get lobbying ideas & also to look for solutions to the issue. Council agreed this is a good idea. | | | | Maeve R | **5 Mins** |
| I. | **Mental Health survey and planning**  Maeve G shared a PowerPoint with council outlining the work that she has done creating a mental health survey. This survey will be given to students to complete in October. Gave the history of previous surveys & changes made to the survey this year to reflect to the needs of current students. The purpose of the survey is to gather student feedback to inform her campaigns/awareness events/events etc. Any feedback & support welcomed. | | | | Maeve G | **5 Mins** |
| K. | **Plassey Credit Union being an alternative to BOI**  Raised issue since BOI no longer on campus – outlined the the process of getting an account & the benefits to students by having BOI on campus. Having discussed at Exec the idea of Plassey Credit Union being an alternative an idea, would be a support to international students & students under 18 etc.  Louis questioned why Plassey Credit Union were in the courtyard without Exec knowing. Student Officers updated Louis that newly elected Events Chairperson will be at Exec going forward & will be able to update Exec. Niamh made suggestions regarding Welfare Wednesdays & Maeve G took feedback. Maeve R acknowledged Niamh’s great suggestion.  No further questions/comments. | | | | Niamh | **5 mins** |
| **L.** | **Charity Week**  Maeve R asked for Charity week suggestions via Teams – she will then compile all suggestions into a poll. The top 4 voted will then go to Instagram to be voted by all students. Action: Maeve R to follow up. | | | | Maeve R | **5 Mins** |
|  | **AOB**  Niamh gave an update on a report regarding parking & security  Actioned to be brought up at GA as discussed at Exec.  All acknowledged Eoghan great job of chairing his 1st Student Council meeting. Eoghan thanked everyone for a great meeting. | | | | Niamh | **3 Mins** |

**Duration: 110 minutes Next Meeting: October 11th 2022**