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**UL Student Council 2023 / 24**

**Meeting 3**

# **Minutes**

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|  | **Meeting** | **:** | **UL Student Life Student Council** | | | |
|  | **Date** | **:** | **28th of February 2023 (Semester 2 - Week 6)** | | | |
|  | **Venue** | **:** | **Library Boardroom** |  | | |
|  | **Time** | **:** | **6pm** |  | | |
|  | **Members: Maeve Rutledge; Maeve Gilmore; Kieran Guiry; Laura Corcoran; Eoghan O’ Mahony; Niamh Hickey; Maud Keane, Ronan Cahill, Maryam Rida Khan, Emma Wright, Conor McCourt, Mohit Sadarangani, Gareth Moore, Louis Storan, Amanda Moloney, Aldrin Sam William, Ciara O Flynn, Evan Mansfield, Drishti Singhal, Ahmed Mirza, Amy McGuinness, James Conner, Charlie Flannery, Roslyn Shaw Kelly, Edel Straum, Ilya Miklashevitch, Kaustubh Katti, Brian Bolger, Mahir Jha, Thiana Mesadieu**    **In Attendance: Jasmine Ryan, Gillian O’Gorman**  **Apologies: Siobhán Wilmott, Ella Fay, Katie Martin** | | | | | |
| ***No.*** | ***Items*** | | | | ***Responsible*** | ***Time Allocation*** |
|  | **Welcome to New Members**  Thiana Mesadieu – Disabilities Councillor | | | | **Eoghan** |  |
| **1.** | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  Minutes of Council Meeting – 14th of January | | | | **Eoghan** | **5 Mins** |
| **2.** | **Meeting Business** | | | | Eoghan | **5 Mins** |
| **a.** | Executive Reports  She attended Governing Authority and Academic Council. She met with the President and Provost on the demonstration. Chaired Student Forum. Met with Andrew Flaherty on ideas for the ideal campus. Has been assisting a social enterprise and with the Turkey/Syria earthquake relief efforts in tandem with the PSU.  **Welfare**  Last week she attended various meetings in relation to updates in the library that will have more loanable technologies and wellness spaces. Met with candidates for the Welfare position. She updated all on the SOS buttons that are present across campus. She is looking for volunteers to assist in the coordination of period products.  **Academic**  Advised that as of this week 191 Class Representatives have been recruited. He provided an updated on the undergraduate start dates. He is assisting with the Student Survey. Has been reviewing a variety of common entry courses and grading systems. Assisted in the Turkish prayer service.  **Communities**  Clubs and societies are on the last night of marking clubs and societies awards. She is continuing her work with Ukrainian students to allocate funding to improve their wellbeing. She has been facilitating the commuter hub and working with Maeve G on ‘SOS’ buttons being placed around campus.  **Student Council Chair**  Attended multiple executive meetings and chaired council. Attending Commuter hub in Week 6.  **Faculties**  Attended council in Week 6 & Exec in Week 5. Met with the AHSS Dean to discuss representation. She has been emailing counsellors to collect feedback. She also attended the commuter hub.  **Equality and Diversity Chairperson**  She advised that Islamic Society has returned. | | | | All | **15 Mins** |
| **b.** | **Standing Item – Council Updates**  This new standing item will be an opportunity for Councillors to share ideas and updates.  James Conner noted that he is looking for professionals in the industry of sports science to do some training in PESS. He has gotten Strength & Conditioning coaches from other colleges in Europe who are interested in recording tutorial videos for UL students. | | | | All | **5 Mins** |
| **c.** | **Sustainability Motion**  Kathleen Coll presented a motion to Student Council (seconded by Stephanie Hawkins) that would encourage the University of Limerick to adopt an integrated sustainability policy. She proposed to…   * Extend deposit return schemes across campus. * To encourage the use of biodegradable cups. * Incentivize reusable cup use by providing a discount.   Discussion arose as to whether the use of biodegradable cups would pass on cost increases to students. Katie noted that, in her research, the price difference ranges between 3-4 cent per unit. She advised that she thinks the price wouldn’t be passed on as the use of deposit return schemes and reusable cups may mean less purchase of product overall.  Maeve R noted that if the motion were to pass it would mandate the Student Officers to push for a unified sustainability policy concerning reusable cups. No immediate changes would come into effect that would have direct impact on students on passing of the motion. However, it does allow the Student Officers to lobby for action.  The motion was passed with 13 ‘Yea’ votes. | | | | Kathleen | **10 Mins** |
| **d** | **Faculty Rep Election – AHSS**  Item did not go ahead – will be revisited at the next council. | | | | Eoghan | **5 Mins** |
| **e.** | **Demonstration**  Maeve R spoke with President Kirsten Mey and the Provost Shane Kilcommins. In this productive meeting, she outlined the context and purpose of a demonstration against rising student numbers. After a review of policy, and this discussion with the President and Provost, it is clear that it is the policy of the Government and the European Union which must be influenced.  The EU uses a funding formula for universities that is tied to student numbers, retention, and progression.  The issue is that the capitation per student does not match the additional resources needed as student numbers increase. It was noted that the as the Midwest is one of the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas, the increase in student numbers is more positively reflective of broadening access, and this should continue to rise in so far as resources are supplied in tandem.  Maeve R was told by Shane and Kerstin that the work the officers are doing does not go unrecognized and is putting in motion positive change. T  Maeve thinks that taking the demonstration to the Dáil is the best option. The idea is to motivate the government to ensure that the funding is adequate to care for larger student populations. There is potential for the University to support students in this effort. While they haven’t said yes, they also haven’t said no.  Thiana asked what we’d be protesting. Maeve R advised that we would be lobbying the government to increase funding per student if the government is going to set targets for student populations. She also asked where the funding would come from, and Maeve R advised it would be the Government and the EU.  James Conner asked if this would be a good idea to discuss this at council over a couple of meetings. Maeve R advised she was actioned to do a working group in relation to student numbers. Maeve R asked for councillors to collect feedback.  Ilya asked if a walkout could be organised by UL. Maeve R has been envisioning some form of walkout, gathering or speech in UL that takes place in tandem with the lobbying up in Dublin. | | | | Maeve R | **15 Mins** |
| **f.** | **Elections – Updates & Voter Turnout**  Jasmine advised that this Election week will be exciting. She asked all members to ensure they participate in Election week and to encourage friends and classmates to vote. | | | | Jasmine | **10 Mins** |
| **g.** | **Test Elections**  Jasmine asked the room to do a quick test of the MSL voting platform. | | | | Jasmine | **5 Mins** |
| **h.** | **Election Volunteers**  Jasmine asked Council members if they would be willing to volunteer with different activities during the Election week. | | | | Jasmine | **5 Mins** |
| **i.** | **Student Council - (Format & Engagement)**  Eoghan used this time to facilitate a discussion around the format and composition of council, as well to open a discussion into how engagement can be improved. Members, both online and in-person, separated into breakout rooms to discuss and filled out a Padlet that will be used for later review and further formulation of improvements. | | | | Eoghan | **15 Mins** |
| **i.** | **Women’s Day Opportunity**  Jasmine advised that Women for Election have asked if Student Council Members and Student Officers would be interested in taking a trip to Dáil Eireann for International Women’s Day. She told Council that she would update with registration details when they became available to her. | | | | Jasmine | **5 Mins** |
| **k.** | **Leaders for Life Masterclass**  Jasmine advised that the Leaders for Life Mindflex Leadership Masterclass will take place on March 8th, from 2:00 pm to 3.30 pm and invited all to get their tickets. The session will help students combat limiting beliefs and help them learn to adapt to stressful situations. | | | | Jasmine | **2 Mins** |
| **3.** | **AOB**  It was advised that certain Teams backgrounds might be distracting.  Maeve has advised that food on campus is not diverse enough to suit others’ needs. She was told this morning that Kirsten and Shane will be pushing for vendors on campus to cater to all individuals with dietary requirements. This is not guaranteed but they will lobby for it.  EDI have pulled Mary Kenny and she is no longer participating in the EDI session. Laura pushed hard for this to speaker to be removed. | | | |  |  |

**Duration: 90 minutes Next Meeting: 14th of March 6:00 PM**