**UL Student Council 2021 / 22**

**Meeting 4**

# Minutes

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|  | **Meeting** | **:** | **UL Student Life Council** | | | |
|  | **Date** | **:** | **November 9th 2021 (Semester 1 - Week 10)** | | | |
|  | **Venue** | **:** | **Zoom** |  | | |
|  | **Time** | **:** | **6pm** |  | | |
|  | **Members: Cillian O’ Donohue, Alice Hynes, Jordan Cassells, Seán Ó’ Maoilchiaráin, Rania Shadeed; Louis Pemble; Cían Ó’ Caoinleáin; Vishal Manuhar; Alan Enright; Deepak Venkatasuresh; Vivin Viswanath; Darren Heffernan; Karan Gupta; Denver Joseph Saldanha; Emily Timmins; Edel Straum; Ben Fitzgerald Kiely;**  **Izzabella Parkinson; Joe Drennan; Jeremy Pili; Mary O’ Donnell; Eoghan O’ Mahony**  **In Attendance: Gillian O’ Gorman; Siobhán Wilmott; John McDermott.**  **Apologies:** | | | | | |
| ***No.*** | ***Items*** | | | | ***Responsible*** | ***Time Allocation*** |
|  | **Welcome to New Members** | | | | Cían |  |
| **1.** | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  Minutes of Council Meeting – 26th October  Minutes of Council Meeting – 26th October were approved.  Proposed by: Alice Hynes Seconded by: Seán Ó’ Maoilchiaráin | | | | Cían | **5 Mins** |
| **2.** | **Meeting Business** | | | |  |  |
| **a.** | **Executive Reports**  President (Cillian)   * Released a statement on UL's Accommodation  Survey, along with the   other student officers.​   * Ran a social media campaign around the UL Twin Room proposal.​ * Working with Alice on Academic issues / Exam accommodations.​ * Chaired the first ever Student Forum​. * Attended Governing Authority and Spoke about Twin Rooms and the   accommodation Crisis.   * Library capacity now reached 1,700.   Welfare (Seán)   * Secured funds to help rollout free period products all over campus.​ * Mental health survey is finished - next step is analyzing results.​ * Made an appeal to governing authority to do more to support UL Éist by highlighting the poor state of affairs in the service. ​ * Sat on the first meeting of the Creche Liaison Committee since May 2019.​ * Began Mental Health and Wellbeing Week 2021 – Help Welcome. * Spoke on Newstalk, Live95 and Irish Mail on Sunday in relation to accommodation provision in UL.   Communities (Jordan)   * Sanctuary: promises made re: securing moderate financial aid, step in the right direction. Survey of immediate needs being done.​ * Prayer Space for Muslim Women: clarified available space in prayer hall and signposting with some UL support staff​. * Accessible Campus: Implementation of Universal Design for Learning on Governing Authority subcommittee's work plan. * Commuter Students: Survey on hold accommodation survey may provide better data, Hub in UL purgatory. Issue of Erosion of Student Spaces on campus since reopening raised with Pres, VP and Chancellor​. * Outreach with Students in Temporary Accommodation being considered with Student Information and Support Staff​. * Global Campus Week (formerly 'diversity week' next week) in conjunction with STAND Student Festival –> Exhibition, World Café, International Quiz @ Scholars, Global Citizenship Session; Showcasing global and national Student Activism​. * Gender Identity and Recognition and Facilities in UL – Clarifying timelines in the University and next steps as a student organisation – leadership from council encouraged. * Student Parents Santa's Grotto underway.​ * Sensory Project in Disability Support Office linking in with Students and Reps for input​. * Raised Postrgrad Visa issues with Minister Harris; Global Issues with Provost.​ * Diwali went well, covid limited numbers so was not as integrative as long term vision for such events should be.​ * Academic (Alice) * Sought clarity over provisions for students with Covid, High-risk or issues during online exams at CAMPG. ​Conversations starting re next semester​. * Exam campaign – planning an informative and useful campaign for week 12-13. ​ * Student Forum: answered questions mainly focused on the exam period and class rep queries. ​ * Accommodation - meeting on Tuesday to discuss our thoughts on twin rooms and possible solutions to the crisis.​ * Supported the INMO Campaign for Student Nurses and Midwives.​ * Preparing Class Rep Forum.   PSU (Louis)   * Representing Postgrads' needs and interests – How? ​ * Raised international issues with upper management, eg visas, accommodation scams​. * Organising PG events. * Raised visa issues with local TDs. ​ * Participated in launch of speak out tool. ​ * Resolved student card printing issue with GPS.​ * Liased with ITD to correct our mailing list. ​ * Orientation with new group of research students. ​ * Working on refunds for cancelled international trip.   Student Council Chairperson (Cían)   * Chairing Council. * Attending Exec meetings.   Clubs Officer (Mary)  No update.  Societies Officer (Jeremy)   * WhatsApp Group for Societies Discussion Made!​   Lots of people joined already.​  Interesting discussions being held – Keeping an eye out.​   * Moving for PR Supports for C&S Committees​   C&S Exec moving to seek assistance with Wolves brand in general.​  Looking into PR/Social Media Workshops with an external design firm as part of the brand update.​   * Looking into Out-of-Hours Events (Weekends, Nights)​   Focusing on Demand vs. Insurance Limitations.  Experience (Deepak)   * Working towards getting feedback from students to conduct activities during the weekends, as the campus is not lively during the weekends.​   Events (Vishal)   * Global campus week​   Planning Events to Keep the students engaged the entire week.​   * Christmas ball Event​   Working as a backend team to make sure the event goes smoothly  and try getting feedback from the students. ​  Equality & Diversity (Vivin)  Addressing concerns of Feminist and LGBTQ groups– How? ​  - First round of discussion carried out with both groups.​  - Various feedbacks like all gender toilets, option to select names in Students ID cards etc. were highlighted.​ Working with Jordan to action the feedback.      Faculty Officer (Alan)   * Met with Alice, Siobhan & Gillian to discuss ways to improve representation. * Dealing with individual student cases. | | | | Exec | **20 mins** |
| **b.** | Student Forum Feedback  Group gave feedback   * Positive atmosphere. * Space for ideas & questions. * Great interaction between students and Council. * Topics discussed at forum;   ○ Lack of bins on campus.  ○ Lack of parking spaces.  ○ Need for larger lockers.  ○ Need for commuter student space.  ○ Need for extra E-charging ports on campus for electric cars.  ○ Cillian received email queries around parking or academic. | | | | All | **5 mins** |
| **c** | GA Outcomes Update   * Cillian had requested an accommodation plan from UL to be presented at Governing Authority. * Nine Long term solutions presented. * Twin room proposal brought forward (Cillian opposed this). * There is an imbalance of student Co-op placement has an impact on accommodation. * Seán highlighted UL Ēist financial difficulties to GA which caused surprised reactions. | | | | Cillian & Seán | **5 mins** |
| d. | ‘Ideas for Celebratory Event’  UL plant to host a celebratory event in April 2022.  Suggestions from Council   * A Ball / Awards event? * UL Sports Hall with large screen containing roll of names with speeches from faculty deans? (option from 2020). * Re-introduce the ‘’Party on the Plaza’’ event? | | | | Louis | **5 mins** |
| e. | Enablement Fund  Fund available until end of semester and will be discontinued.  Group ideas   * Could be availed by C&S? * Used to run events for Charity Week?   Action: Members to think of ideas and send them to Cillian. | | | | Cillian | **5 mins** |
| f. | Accommodation Crisis  Council were put into breakout rooms for discussion.  Feedback;   * Needs to be solution focussed. * Twin rooms are not purpose built and should be temporary. * Some of the survey questions were not applicable - eg mortgage? * Hold a protest on preventing increased student numbers? * Should national Student Unions be involved? * Is Travelodge an option? – not all rooms are bedrooms. * Students write an open letter to UL? * Need clarity from UL about what it is planning?   Action: Await UL survey results to see percentage of opposition to twin rooms  Volunteers to put themselves forward to join a working group. | | | | Edel | **10 mins** |
| g. | AHSS Faculty Rep Election  Abigēal Drummy was elected AHSS Faculty Rep. | | | | Siobhán | 5 mins |
|  | AOB  Council to create a Student Survey to form part of working group. | | | |  |  |
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**Duration: 120 minutes Next Meeting: 23rd November 2021**