**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 OctoberMinutes 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**