**UL Student Council 2021 / 22**

**Meeting 5**

# Minutes

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|  | **Meeting** | **:** | **UL Student Life Council** | | | |
|  | **Date** | **:** | **November 23rd 2021 (Semester 1 - Week 12)** | | | |
|  | **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; Karin Mason; Ahana Maharaj; Clodagh Campion; Sushmita Biswas; Manoj Aggarwal; Achran Jain; Prateek Singh Patel; Yi Qin Gan; Melwin Mathew; Abaigéal Drummy; James Conner; Eadaoin Keyes; Sherin Thomas Emmatty; Lokesh** **Kumar Rawat; Leanne Glanville.**  **In Attendance: Gillian O’ Gorman; Siobhán Wilmott; John McDermott.**  **Apologies: Vishal Manuhar;**  **Absent: Jordan Cassells** | | | | | |
| ***No.*** | ***Items*** | | | | ***Responsible*** | ***Time Allocation*** |
|  | **Welcome to New Members**  **Karin Mason; Sushmita Biswas; Lokesh** **Kumar Rawat; Leanne Glanville.**  Cían welcomed each of the new members to Council. | | | | Cían |  |
| **1.** | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  Minutes of Council Meeting – 9th November  Minutes of Council Meeting – 9th November were approved.  Proposed by: Edel Straum Seconded by: Ahana Maharaj | | | | Cían | **5 Mins** |
| **2.** | **Meeting Business** | | | |  |  |
| **a.** | **Executive Reports**  President (Cillian)   * Academic Issues relating to exams being on campus and also further clarity on the format of Semester 2/ Covid I-grades.​ * There may be procurement issues on the UL App, so I am currently looking at other routes.​ * Working with UL for an in-person celebratory event for the 2020 and 2021 cohorts.​ * Voted against a 2% increase in fees for International and Postgraduate students. ​ * Sat on the interview panel for the new General Manager of UL Sport. ​ * Working on the College Court gates and called an emergency meeting on the issue.​ * Having a moustache growing competition with Welfare officer Seán.       Welfare (Seán)   * Campaign Video filmed to launch ATOTM pilot campaign on campus in early December. ​ * Report on Mental Health Survey is completed. (On agenda)​. * Gave a talk to class reps on how to look after your mental health. ​ * Met with Sarah Kennedy (Healthy UL manager) about promoting the Healthy UL survey.​ * Mental Health and Wellbeing Week was a success especially 'wellness fair' on Wednesday/Thursday. * Spoke to RTÉ regarding the twin room proposal as laid out by the accommodation survey. ​   Academic (Alice) ​   * Many exams have moved online - a lot of students still aren't happy that they have some on-campus exams. * Academic Council emergency meeting on Thursday to discuss reinstating the Covid I-grade. ​ * Representing the need for safer exam centres. ​ * Reviewing the Leave of Absence process. * Starting to plan for next semester. Need to avoid the mistakes made this semester. ​ * Supporting students with modular issues and meeting with lecturers to discuss options/compromises.​ * Class Rep Forum - collected feedback. Students raised concerns over the in-person exams and suggested solutions. ​ * Faculty Board meetings. ​ * New credit/progression system under discussion. Some student friendly changes will come out of this but it may also raise the academic standard for students.   PSU (Louis)   * Raised international issues with upper management, eg visas, accommodation scams​. * Events. * Raised visa issues with local TDs . * Participated in launch of speak out tool. ​ * Resolved student card printing issue with GPS.​ * Liaised with ITD to correct our mailing list. * Orientation with new group of research students. ​   Clubs Officer (Mary)   * New to Exec so getting to know the ins and outs of Council​. * ​Making position known to other club chairpersons in case any support is needed – particularly in Covid recovery.​ * ​Supplying egg merchandise.   Societies Officer (Jeremy)   * Exams winding down activity overall.​ * Planning to restart & prep for next semester!   Experience (Deepak)   * Got some information about certain issues in the Co-op office from the co-op councilor and discussed about this during the exec meeting with other executives.​     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)  Action on points highlighted by LGBTQI groups​;   * Discussed regarding converting one disabled toilet in each building to gender-neutral one. ​ * Global campus week​ * Supported Global Café event in Pavilion. ​ * Interacted with participants to further understand the challenges and suggestions they had w.r.t Equality and Diversity prevailing in Campus. ​ * Rainbow week​ * Discussion on-going with councilors and Coordinator from Office of the Director Human Rights Equality, UL Diversity, and Inclusion with regard to planning of events.     Faculty Officer (Alan)  ○ No update | | | | Exec | **15 mins** |
| **b.** | Mental Health Survey Results  Seán presented results of the mental health survey. Data from each question was shared.   * 198 students completed survey. * 60% stated that they had experienced a mental health issue. * 66% had not engaged in mental health support service during the pandemic. * 67% stated that they would now engage with mental health support service. * 30% felt that UL were good at supporting mental health. * 51% felt supported by UL for their mental health.   What can be done? (by UL / ULSL)   * Fund UL Ēist. * Solve housing crisis. * Educate faculty on mental health. * Mindfulness Meditation sessions. * Guest speakers. * Courtyard events. 61% in favour of in person events. | | | | Seán | **10 mins** |
| **c** | Motion Vote – Installation of Gates (KBS & Schumann)  Motion vote could not take place due to an issue with the paperwork.  Cían asked if members of Council received student feedback on the issue?   * Eoghan spoke with some students in College Court who said they were against the installation of gates due to proximity of estate to UL campus. * Darren also spoke with a number of students who were against the gates being installed. * A lot of damage to cars near Boathouse, with criminals entering campus by river path – not through College Court. | | | | Cillian | **10 mins** |
|  | AOB  Opposition to In-person Exams  Students are not happy that on campus exams will be taking place.  UL management feels it has done everything they can to move exams online.  The remaining on campus exams are taking place for accreditation reasons.  Group discussion followed;   * Students feel UL haven’t given them clear direction. * Some faculty are waiting on a final direction from UL. * Deans were supposed to crunch down on this but it didn’t happen. * Biological Sciences academics told their students that the exams would be held on campus. * Engineering assessments during semester one were held online. However, the exams will take place on campus. * Students could lie about having COVID in order not to have to take an I Grade exam in August. * How can UL make students feel safer when taking in person exams?   ○ Put two metre social distancing in exam halls?  ○ Provide FFFP3 medical standard face masks? (worn in COVID ICU).  ○ Use very high standard ventilation system.  ○ Provide isolation rooms for vulnerable students to take exams?  Action(s): Council should send suggestions to Cillian & Alice.  Alice to ask CAMPG for the list of in person exams & reasons for  taking place in person.  Student Officers to seek clarity and change of decision around in  person exams.  Student Officers to write a clarity statement ie current situation &  steps taken to bring to Class Reps.  Council agreed on the above actions.  Self Care for Reps  Taking place on Friday, 3rd December.  Leadership Training taking place in semester 2.  Non-mask wearing in Library  Students have told PSU that they are uncomfortable in the library as other students are not wearing masks.  Cían stated that security walk through every 15 minutes to check people are wearing masks. | | | | Alice  Siobhán  Louis | **10 mins** |

**Duration: 60 minutes Next Meeting: 1st February 2022**