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**UL Student Council 2022 / 23**

**Meeting 5**

# **Minutes**

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|  | **Meeting** | **:** | **UL Student Life Council** | | | |
|  | **Date** | **:** | **November 22nd 2022 (Semester 1 - Week 12)** | | | |
|  | **Venue** | **:** | **Library Boardroom** |  | | |
|  | **Time** | **:** | **6pm** |  | | |
|  | **Members: Kieran Guiry; Laura Corcoran; Eoghan O’ Mahony; Niamh Hickey; Ahmed Mirza; Amanda Moloney; Evan Mansfield; Ciara O Flynn; Ella Fay; Ronan Cahill; Louis Storan; Drishiti Singhal; Kaustubh Katti; Edel Straum; Emma Wright, Amy Mc Guinness; Mohit Sadarangani; James Conner; Gareth Moore; Aldrin Sam William; Katie Martin, Maryam Rida Khan, Charlie Flannery, Ilya Mikhlashevitch**    **In Attendance: Jasmine Ryan; Siobhán Wilmott**    **Apologies: Roisin Mitchell** | | | | | |
| ***No.*** | ***Items*** | | | | ***Responsible*** | ***Time Allocation*** |
|  | **Welcome to New Members**  **Charlie Flannery – Psychology Rep** | | | | **Eoghan** | **2 mins** |
| **1.** | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  **Minutes of Council Meeting – 8th of November** | | | | **Eoghan** | **3 Mins** |
| **2.** | **Meeting Business**  Maeve addressed the recent email that had been sent by the UL PSU to Student Council. She put to the floor an opportunity for the open discussion of the matter. Due to the sensitivity of these discussions, the minutes of the meeting will not reflect the private details of the personal experiences of Student Council Members.  The decision to strike these details from the record was made in accordance with a vote held by President Maeve Rutledge, wherein the majority of Council members in-person and online voted. | | | |  | **10/15 mins** |
| **b.** | **Executive Reports**  **President**  Maeve had a meeting with the financial comptroller of UL before her trip to Boston. She brought data to him that highlighted the financial pressures being faced by UL Students. She is hoping that by Semester 2 actions will be taken to help. In addition, facilities in the PESS Student Space will be funded by ULSL. She is just ironing out health and safety issues around boiling water. Maeve updated Council on her trip abroad to Boston and mentioned how student-centred universities in the United States are. She will update in more detail in further meetings.  **Welfare**  Maeve will be attending WONKE – an international European Student Union event that shows how Student’s Unions function in other EU States. They will be visiting Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands. She highlighted the positive reception in the media the Commuter Hub has received and features on RTE Radio 1’s drive time. She has continued to direct students in need of assistance in the Commuter Hub to SISC. She is working on creating care packages with pregnancy tests but also different items and link-ins to support. Had a meeting with Gary Butler to discuss increase in the student hardship fund. She had a student meet her to discuss a student death from meningitis, and this has inspired here to work with HSE and ACT to spread awareness. The remembrance event has been cancelled because of how unpredictable the weather is.  **Academic**  146 Class Reps have now been recruited as of WK 11. Despite stilted attendance at the Class Rep forum, he was happy with the level of engagement and discussion held at the forums. Attended the Honorary Doctorate ceremony for John Kiely. Attended the EHS Faculty board meeting and spoke about the importance of representation. He is also currently reviewing UL’s external examiner policy.  **Communities**  She is planning Student Parent Santa with the engagement coordinator for the festive season. C&S Council and Exec has now finished for the semester, and she praised the hard work displayed by all members. She is working with the University of Sanctuary to create new methods of engagement for sanctuary students outside of academics. She is working with SISC to create an event for Ukrainian students who have fallen through the gaps, to provide them a welcome and supports. She is planning next semester in collaboration with Councillors. She has been facilitating the commuter hub each morning and taking part in interviews for RTE Drive Time and NewsTalk.  **Student Council Chair**  Chaired Council in Week 10. He attended Exec meetings in WK 11 and WK 12. He attended the Council Event last night. He attended an Academic Registry feedback meeting. He attended the Christmas Ball. He attended the Cost of Living Coalition protest in Limerick City to get an idea of what students in other universities are struggling from. He met with Ken from the ColC to try and collaborate about how UL can get involved in a capacity approved by Student Council. He is asking for feedback from Council on how best to facilitate this.  **Faculty Officer**  Attended Council in Week 12 & Exec in Week 11 & 12. Attended the Class Rep Forum in Week 11, where she discussed NStEP & Student Council and encouraged Council members to get involved as it is a great opportunity. She updated on the Class Rep group chats, and she has asked if anyone is interested in joining to get in contact with her. She will be working actively next semester with Kieran to address the issue students are facing where they are getting marked down for non-attendance when they are unable, due to commuting or personal reasons, to attend.  **Society Officer**  Katie has been working on the ground to ask questions, to get feedback, to get the most from C&S next semester. She is working on a report to present at C&S council with feedback, data, and suggestions for the improvements of Societies’ functions and supports. She met with Siobhan to plan for more collaboration with C&S and Exec. The launch of the [SocsOfficer@ULWolves.ie](mailto:SocsOfficer@ULWolves.ie) email address has been great for letting students reach out to her for support. She is working on doing a refresher of the Aramark Boycott to bring students up to speed on the former referendum. She is also developing a marketing and branding strategy for 2023.  **Events Chairperson**  Ronan met with Maud to discuss and organise the content that they will be posting on social media of the Xmas event. Ronan assisted Siobhan and Jasmine in organising the Student Council Xmas event.  **Clubs Officer**  She attended C&S Exec and members have approached her about how they wish for C&S council meetings to be improved to have more active participation and engagement, beyond the need to attend for budgetary reasons.  **UL Experience Chairperson**  She met with Jennifer Purcell, Communications Coordinator, this week to organise social media content for the coming weeks, such as “Days in the Life” and “Behind the Scenes” style videos. She met with Ronan on organising social media content for the student council Social Event.  **Equality & Diversity Chairperson**  She met with Laura to organise cultural diversity events, such as her idea to have a one for all and all for one everyone is included style event. One of the main areas of discussion was Women’s International Day, Diversity Week, etc. She advised that everything is up for discussion and collaboration. | | | | **All** | **15 mins** |
| **c.** | **Invitation for Patrick Ryan to attend Council**  Siobhan asked Student Council if they would be interested in having Patrick Ryan, Vice President of Student Engagement, attend Student Council. Patrick is an active supporter of efforts to get the UL Student Body engaged. He has asked if Student Council would extend an invitation and if his attendance would have a value. Niamh proposed that an invitation also be extended to Shane and Kerstin. Siobhan has asked if this could perhaps be added as an agenda point for future meetings, after Council members have sought insight and ideas from their constituents. She proposed that this was tabled as a discussion in one meeting, and expanded upon in later meetings. She asked for members online and offline to raise their hands to express interest. A majority supported. | | | | **Siobhan** | **5 mins** |
| **e.** | **What is our action on the cost-of-living crisis?**   * **5 mins of feedback. 5 minutes of actions.**   Siobhan and Eoghan proposed that breakout rooms will be set up to discuss what UL Student Life can do to address the cost of living crisis as a collective. The Council members broke into three groups, two online and one online, to collaboratively discuss different ways to work together to address the crisis.  Maryam, group 1, proposed to control the demand for student housing and that apartment blocks are built instead of student villages. They asked the University to collaborate with Airbnb and hotels to provide student accommodation. They also proposed for the University to use shuttle buses to help students in off-campus residences commute.  Maeve G, group 2, discussed the creation of a protest. They want to plan for a protest a month in advance. At this protest, they want to discuss supports, programmes, etc. They proposed using UL Confessions as a form of parody for their own branding and marketing, calling it UL Student Life Confessions. They would use this format to listen to students and use a physical suggestion box. Any items they retrieved from the suggestion box would be used in the picket. They want to plan it well in advance so that it makes an impact, allows for lecturers to be aware, and so students aren’t penalised if they participate in a walk out.  Laura, group 3, reiterated how her group agreed that not having money for essentials effects all facets of life. These struggles can be exacerbated due to lack of knowledge of resources and supports around the university and through SUSI. Katie highlighted the importance of social media and the creation of accessible protests. Laura suggested that since it is not always easy to participate in protests that all students wear red. They agreed that the purpose of the protest needs to be clear.  Maeve R advised that if it is decided here today that a protest is to go ahead, that she, the Officers and the rest of Council and Exec can start planning out the logistics. Siobhan proposed a vote that this will be an ongoing matter. A majority of Council agreed. In the future this will be added as a standing agenda item and will have 20 minutes of discussion allotted to it. Laura proposed that there should be two options for the protest such as a passive/active mode of engagement.  Maeve R advised that in second semester there will be actions taken to alleviate the crisis by having items that students need made available in their offices. | | | | **All** | **15-20 mins** |
| **d.** | **Representation Recruitment**   * **Moved to next agenda.** | | | | **Siobhan & Jasmine** | **5 mins** |
| **f** | Student Handbook  Mohit proposed that there is a need for one single document to act as a Student Handbook. He checked the UL Website and found the 2020 version but would like to have it updated collaboratively by Council. He proposed for it to contain information on where one can buy their essentials, what’s for rent, and anything else that a student may need be included in the handbook and would be available as a PDF.  Katie advised that she has spent her summer on developing a student handbook with First 7 Weeks that is incredibly comprehensive. She only asks that it is acknowledged that it is a separate document.  Maeve G did a catalogue at the beginning of her tenure that has so far gone unused. Maryam advised that the UL ambassadors are doing something slightly similar and are working on blogs and similar items to update on where to eat, etc.  Mohit has asked for the members who agreed to get involved to contact him via email. Maryam and Katie agreed to share information. It was agreed that this item will be revisited and placed as an agenda point in the next student council. Maeve R advised she will reach out to different faculty and department representatives that can help facilitate. | | | | **Mohit** | **15 mins** |
| **g.** | **Elections**   * **Moved to next agenda.** | | | | **Siobhan** | **5 mins** |
|  | **AOB** | | | |  | **5 mins** |

**Duration: 90 minutes Next Meeting: 31st of January 2022**

**Actions**

* **After a majority ‘Yes’ vote, Siobhan Wilmott will reach out to Patrick Ryan to attend Student Council.**
* **Cost of Living Protest will be added as a recurring item on the Agenda. There will be 20 minutes of discussion.**
* **The Officers by majority vote have been given the mandate to begin planning for an action around the Cost of Living, and will do so in collaboration with Student Council**
* **Student Exec will continue to work on behalf of Student Council to plan and discuss an action around the Cost of Living**
* **Maeve R has actioned that there will be measures taken in the upcoming semester to improve on-campus facilities for Students that will help them with their cost of living – such as free calculators and certain items available in the Officers’ office that people can avail of.**
* **Laura has actioned that there are two options for protest: passive/active protests.**
* **Maryam, Katie, agreed to work with Mohit on a Student handbook. Niamh, Maud, Amanda, Kieran, and Emma all agreed to assist. It is actioned going forward that they will remain in contact.**
* **Mohit asked for members to get in touch with him about collaborating on the Student Handbook.**
* **Student Handbook will be added to the next Agenda.**