**UL Student Life**

#  STUDENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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| **Role / Position** | **:** | Academic Officer  |
| **Author** | **:** | Alice Hynes  |
| **Date** | **:** | 16/09/2021 |
| **Audience**  | **:** | **UL Student Council** |
| **Action** | **:** | **Approve** |
| ***Goals*** |
| **Main Goals** | **Progress (what have you achieved since the last Council meeting)** |
| Student Rep Recruitment  | We are running a student rep recruitment campaign from week 1 to week 5. Lots of interest in Student Council roles so far – great to see. Low numbers of class reps elected – need to have another look at our recruitment strategy as something isn’t working.  |
| Class Rep Forums  | Plan for first class rep forum is relatively complete. Finalising who will give presentations. I am meeting Anna-Marie from ITD on the 17th to outline what we want from them and to see if they could also address Academic Registry info or if we require another presenter from AR to do this.  |
| Availability of resources online for students  | I am continuing to advocate for resources to be made available to students on their SULIS sites. Students who are affected by Covid (close contacts and those who have contracted it) and those without accommodation should not have to defer because they can’t access their class materials. On the flipside, I am also advocating to keep as much class time on-campus as possible so students who want to be back on campus can be.  |
| 1st year orientation webinars  | The other officers and I are preparing to present a webinar to new first years from each faculty next week. We will give a run through of all the departments and areas in Student Life and how they can get involved.  |
| ***Other Achievements since last Council*** |
| Videos  | I recorded a new section for the Class Rep video which is now featured on our website and has been posted to social media. The officers and I also worked on a Student Council video in which we outlined which roles were aligned to our own positions and why students should get involved.  |
| Graduation ceremonies  | Last week we met with representatives from the ceremonies office and Patrick Ryan to again ask that celebratory events are held for all graduates who did not get an in person event. We are close to having agreement from these people that 2020 and 2021 cohorts will be invited back to the university for an event before the end of the Academic Year in 2022.  |
|  Student Rep Handbook  | I worked closely with John and Siobhan to update the content of the Student Rep Handbook. I also did some work on the formatting and visual side to make it more attractive for students.  |
| ***Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agreed*** |
| CAMPG  | During the summer we discussed the return to college and how that might look. I advocated for resources to be made available online for students as much as possible while also aiming for a majority on campus experience for students. Semester arrangement – I advocated for a full 15-week semester for returning students and for a 12-week semester for 1st year students. I discouraged the idea of having all students wait until the 1st year start date as this would put more pressure on returning students to meet learning outcomes in a shortened time. Also emphasised the need for a reading week before exams as students lacked this last year.  |
| SSOs/ SISC  | Met with a representative from SISC and the SSOs to further develop that relationship and discuss referring students to each department.  |
| Also attended:  | SLOS, Academic Council, APRC  |
| ***Plans before the next meeting*** |
| **Action/work area** | **What I hope to achieve** |
| Finalise plan for class rep forum  | I should know after my meeting with Anna-Marie who my speakers will be for the first forum.  |
| Contact Ross Anderson about the Student Status Committee  | There was an issue with the timeline for the SSC – students did not have enough time between waiting for the result of their grade appeal and applying to the SSC before the deadline. Also want to clarify what are the grounds on which a grade can be changed by the SSC.  |
| Work on Class Rep recruitment strategy  |  |
| Develop graphics for a visual All-Student email for week 4.  | I am intending to send an All-Student email when the first years are registered to encourage class reps to sign up. The email needs to be engaging and visually creative to attract students.  |
| **Student Engagement** |
| **Type of Engagement (Meeting, event etc)** | **Purpose and anything to report on** |
| Social Media  | Instagram stories to inform student reps of important information. Swipe up link to nomination forms.  |
| Email  | Supporting students with registration issues, signposting to topdesk for most queries.  |
| Pop-ups  | Chatting to students for 4 hours each week at our pop-up stand in the courtyard. Answering any questions they may have about student representation and encouraging participation. Free tea and coffee to encourage students to come over to us.  |
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| **Media engagement and external relations** |
| **Engagement (Press, other organisations etc)** | **Purpose and anything to report on** |
|  Minister O’Brien  | Myself and Séan met Minister O’Brien, the Minister for Housing, to ask him to meet us to discuss the student housing crisis.  |
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