**UL Student Life**

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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| **Vice-President Communities** |
| **Author** | **:** | Mr Jordan Cassells |
| **Date** | **:** | 17 September 2021 |
| **Audience**  | **:** | **UL Student Council** |
| **Action** | **:** | **DRAFT/For Information** |
| ***Goals*** |
| **Main Goals** | **Progress as at Friday Sept 17th 2021** |
| Representation Recruitment: Student Communities Engagement Plan:  | I’ve developed this document to ensure I have a definitive reference on the state of representation for the 12+ Student Communities identified through the methods described at the start of the document. This plan also allows me to track what progress we’re making in each area. [Link](https://ulcampus-my.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/r/personal/studentcommunities_ul_ie/Documents/Communities_Student%20Engagement%20Strategy%2021.22%20SEM1.docx?d=w8aa0daeac7244dd194c6bb8db0925c4d&csf=1&web=1&e=wErTC2) I’ve outlined the areas with notable progress below (by implication there has been little progress to note in other areas)* Have drafted email to support services (Student Support Officers, Mature Students Office, Access Office, UL Global *amongst others*) to remind students of the advocacy work of the Union and the opportunity to use their #StudentVoice on Council, either in a role related to their experience or identity, or a role which interests them
* Have reminded students of representation opportunities at UL Global Orientation Webinar and the Mature Student Welcome Programme.
* Pop-Up stalls on Tuesday and Wednesday focused on class reps but there were chances to explain council with interested students
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| Representing Communities’ Interests and Needs | * Sanctuary Students: Positive outlook after meeting with Access Equality and Student Affairs sub-group of Governing Authority however there is more that can be done in the short and medium term while the University figures out how to move the programme from being a “hobby or side project” to the “mainstream”
* Student Parents: Had been talking with one Lysidia Kirby a support officer with the Shannon Consortium Strategic Investment Fund, outlook was positive for securing collaboration on Student Parent Supports specifically for lone parents however this project is now coming to an end. Now need to reconvene with SISC to consider how to advance the situation
* Visiting International Students: Have made it clear with the Sabbatical officer team that we must not be complacent with UL misleading prospective International Students, examples of such activity at the moment: emails in May in no uncertain terms obliged students to be in Limerick for the original start date of August 30th; Alleged assurances that it would be easier for Erasmus Students to secure accommodation once in Limerick. I believe this warrants further investigation
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| Campaigns | * Key International Holidays: I am liaising with Yvonne Crosse, Head of UL Global, to collaborate on Key International Holidays to create events or activities that will encourage participation and engagement with all students. This marks a positive move away from the previous practice of UL Global hosting events for an exclusive group of students that meant very few would engage with it.
* Diversity Week and International Festival: Currently moving from preplanning to planning stage, I would like to canvas student views and interests prior to planning events to show evidence of activities with the most potential for engagement
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| World Mental Health Day | Collaborating with Deputy President Welfare Seán, Siobhán Wilmott, and Mental Health Ireland to host a coffee morning in the Stables Club around World Mental Health Day (October 10th) |
| ***Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agreed*** |
| **Community Liaison Committee Meeting** | This meeting was organised by VP Global and Community Engagement Professor Mairéad Moriarty – awaiting minutes to be circulated although there were **no actions agreed.** A contentious proposal for a ‘UCC Model’ for an off campus code of conduct has been presented although no timeline has been given. Representatives of residents aired their concerns with the actions of UL to date. They were praising Student Life’s return of the MnMs but contended there was more to be done. |
| **Access Equality and Student Affairs Committee (AESAC)** | I attended this meeting with President Cillian and Deputy President Welfare Seán. I spoke about the need to widen access to support offices currently only available to students who applied through HEAR or DARE. I also spoke about the current struggles of Sanctuary Students. I will update and meet with the Provost Nigel Healy, Head of Student Affairs Rhona McCormack after I meet with Chair of the University of Sanctuary Committee Dr Patrick Ryan |
| **Kilmurry Residents Meeting****Bonus: Garda Sergeant Shane Davern Henry St Community Policing** | This was a precursor to the community liaison committee meeting and was attended by local politicians concerned residents and the gardai. This meeting was informed by the gardai of UL's intention to implement the UCC of discipline although they are skeptical that it will be effective. I informed the meeting of the reinstatement of the MnMs for the week First Years start. I was implored to look at possible campaigns for awareness around litter and parties.Following the Residents meeting Sergeant Shane Davern and I spoke about Community Policing turned Crime Policing in the Student Population around UL. I agreed that the Students’ Union has an important part to play relating to awareness and harm reduction, and that the MnMs and other initiatives are integral to such an outcome. |
| **Re: Conferring Ceremonies ( with Sabbat Team)** | With the Sabbatical Officer Team and Postgraduate President Rania, I attended this Meeting with Ceremonies Manager Aelish Nagle and VP Student Engagement Dr Patrick Ryan. We expressed the desires of students as we understand them and how we wish to ensure there is a Celebratory Event for both cohorts of Graduates (2020 & 2021) and that we want to advance this situation collaboratively. |
| **Race and Ethnic Minority Forum** | This meeting was to develop the race and ethnic minority forum. The entirety of the meeting was spent discussing alternatives to the current problematic name. The next meeting will decide a name for the forum based on this discussion. |
| **National Action Committee – Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education** | This national group meets to discuss a variety of programs intended to bring about a culture change to end SVH in Higher Education. The NAC isn’t operationalising any of its own work however the meeting informs the work in individual institutions, currently this relates to my membership of the National Consent Framework Steering Committee and the NCF Policy Committee, as well as informing the launch of the sector-wide ‘Speak Out Anonymous Reporting and Support Tool’  |
| **Strategic Planning Day (Aug 30th)** **Staff Training Day – Professional Boundaries (Aug 31st)** | All Staff in UL Student Life and the Sabbatical Officer Team attended these two days in Limerick City. The Strategic Planning Day gave us time to assess the pillars and objectives of our Strategic Plan ‘Building on Success’. We could only get halfway through the objectives at the last session however I noted several objectives which I could achieve under my remit within this year including developing an International Student Welcome and Induction PlanThe Professional boundaries training was informative and applicable to encountering people in distress or survivors of trauma through the course of our work. |
| ***Plans before the next meeting*** |
| **Action/work area** | **What I hope to achieve** |
| Representation Recruitment: Meet Jenny Blake (Student info and support co-ordinator) | Discuss Engagement with Student Support Offices and other possible channels to Identified Student Communities that do not have an obvious path to engagementIdentify presently unidentified channels of engagement. |
| Representation of Student Communities: Meet SISC (Jenny and Ellie) | Discuss possible trends/needs presenting from identified communities and take evidence from SISC to inform actionsDiscuss Student Parents supports in the University to renew action after the cancelled approach by L. Kirby |
| Representation: Recruitment Email to Student Support Offices in UL  | Interest in Student Council Positions and nominations from Students |
| University of Sanctuary (UoS) | Meet with Dr Patrick Ryan to understand current administrative situation in order to collaborate in the best interests of Sanctuary Students with the ‘mainstreaming’ of the UoS programme |
| Campaigns: Write Key International Holidays Pre-PlanCampaigns: Finalise Diversity Week Pre Plan:Consult with Cathal and Dara | Written Plan for planning celebrations of Key International Holidays in Collaboration with UL Global. Must include canavssing student input on Plans. Invite input from Exec members.Similarly, Finalise written plan for planning diversity week, including targeted actions to gain financial support from HREDI, VP Student Engagement and VP Global and Community Engagement |
| House Party Harm Reduction | Finalise report on meeting with Kilmurry Residents and Garda Shane Davern to Meet with Deputy President Welfare Seán to develop information campaign around House Party Harm Reduction before proposing to exec. |
| **Student Engagement** |
| **Type of Engagement (Meeting, event etc)** | **Purpose and anything to report on** |
| **UL Global International Welcome ( with Sabbat Team)** | Presented to incoming International Students about UL Student Life with the Sabbatical Officer Team and Paul Lee. Answered Queries about C&S and Resumption of activities as best we could at the time. Informed attendees about representation. |
| **Mature Students Welcome Programme** |  Presented information about Student Life services and supports to incoming Mature Students. I answered queries in the webinar looking for contacts to SISC and on How to set up a Society |
| **Pop-Up Stands Reps Recruitment** | Recruitment for Class Reps and Student Council (focused on Class Reps this week) Ongoing until week 5. Anecdotal reports could indicate that informal Class Reps elections take place and are not registered with Student Life, although this issue would necessitate further action. |
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| **Media engagement and external relations** |
| **Engagement (Press, other organisations etc)** | **Purpose and anything to report on** |
| GOSHH Community Development | Staying in contact with GOSHH Community Development Workers, who have offered support to develop a Student/Staff Pride Network in UL. |
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