

**UL Student Life**

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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| **President** |
| **Author** | **:** | Cillian O’Donohue |
| **Date** | **:** | 21/09/2021 |
| **Audience**  | **:** | **UL Student Council** |
| **Action** | **:** | **Approve** |
| ***Goals*** |
| **Main Goals** | **Progress (what have you achieved since the last Council meeting)** |
| **Return to Campus** | My main goal in my election manifesto as President was to ensure that the return to campus would be as normal as possible for all students, and to work as proactively as possible to ensure that the issues that are facing students are brought to the attention of the University and represented in the relevant UL committees. * Pushed for a meeting with Nigel Healey, Patrick Ryan Academic Registry. C&S will now be able to book rooms on campus from the 20th of September
* Secured an outdoor Marquee in the plaza for students to eat outdoors. This is to make up for the closure of some of the indoor seating.
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| **Accommodation Crisis** | The Accommodation situation in Castletroy and the surrounding areas has reached crisis levels. I aim to ensure that this situation is regularly highlighted in the University's committees, to work collaboratively with UL to find solutions both long term and short term, to adopt a UL Student Life stance of “No increase in Student Population until Accommodation and Infrastructural issues are addressed” and to ensure that PCC don’t attempt to reintroduce Twin rooms.**Actions so far:*** Collected data from the relevant departments in ULSL on the number of accommodation queries that come to us, and included this in our report to the Governing Authority.
* Outlined my concerns around the situation with Provost Nigel Healey, and VPA, Patrick Ryan via Email. This led to Nigel bringing a paper to the University Executive about the accommodation crisis on 15/09/2021. Hoping for updates to follow up.
* Alice Hynes and I outlined to CAMPG, (Covid Academic Monitoring and Planning Group) that students who were struggling to find accommodation should be accommodated with online lectures and materials from the University in the same way vulnerable students are.
* Outlined my concerns to the head of UL Global, Mairéad Moriarty about Erasmus students feeling mislead by the University and not being told about the accommodation situation in Limerick.
* I have taken radio interviews with Live95FM and Clare FM to raise awareness on the issue and encourage locals to consider renting out to students.
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| Work towards creation of a “One stop shop” UL Mobile App | I met with VPA Patrick Ryan and the Academic Registry department to discuss routes to take with the App. They both informed me about how difficult it would be to start, but after showing them the simplicity of the design that other Universities have, they were more receptive. I am currently working on a white paper proposal that I will bring to members of the University Executive to try to begin conversations. A group of 2021 Computer Science graduates have reached out to me to express their interest in being involved in the project so I will meet with them and consider their involvement also. |
| The New Student Centre | Getting the New Student Centre project back up and running is a priority that I have had since beginning my role in June. The project has been delayed since March 2020, following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the builder’s going bankrupt. Over the summer I have worked with Martin Ryan and Paul Lee to get the project up and running again. Following a new tender process by the UL Building’s and Estate’s department and approval by the Governing Authority, the tender has been awarded to a new builder and it is expected that work will re-commence soon. I attended the FHRAMC and Governing Authority committee meetings where this was recommended and improved. I answered questions and provided the committees with a letter of support to the tenders from UL Student Life.  |
| Celebratory Event for the Class of 2020 and 2021. | I wrote a letter to Kerstin Mey, Nigel Healey, Patrick Ryan and the UL Ceremonies department on the behalf of the students of UL. We hope that this will lead to a celebratory event for the class of 2021 Aswell as clarity around the celebratory event for the class of 2021. We are waiting for more information around this from UL and hope to have an update for the students in due course.  |
| ***Other Achievements since last Council*** |
| N/A |  |
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| ***Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agreed*** |
| Catering Committee | I rejected the approval of the Aramark services on the basis of their presence in Direct Provision.Also rejected the PCC proposal for Restaurants on campus to be labelled staff canteens. This would mean that indoor dining would be staff only and students would have to get takeaway/ eat outdoors. |
| Academic Council / CAMPG | Decision for lectures with over 300 in attendance to be online. The decision to provide online provisions for students who could not come back to campus, excluding courses where practical teaching is essential. |
| ***Plans before the next meeting*** |
| **Action/work area** | **What I hope to achieve** |
| Orientation Webinar’s for First Years | We are currently planning the Orientation Webinars for incoming first years from the 20th to the 23rd of September (Week 3). We plan to make these as interactive as possible. |
| Community Liaison Committe | Meeting on Friday the 17th to discuss the anti-social behaviour off campus with UL, residents committees and An Gardaí. I will update on the return of the MnM’s. |
| Freshers Week  | We are currently organising Freshers Week with the ULSL staff team. We aim to make it as engaging as possible both in person and through social media. |
| **Student Engagement** |
| **Type of Engagement (Meeting, event etc)** | **Purpose and anything to report on** |
| Return of the Pack Week | **Return of the Pack Week** This is the name we decided on for week 1 of this semester. The idea behind the event was to welcome students back on to campus and in the case of our second years and new postgraduate students it was a welcome to campus for the first time. We had different vendors and promoters at stands in the student courtyard who to engage the students. PVA volunteers helped us to prepare ‘welcome packs’ for our students which contained branded Student Life giveaways and essential information leaflets. We also had music playing and on two days there were circus performers in around the area. The week was a huge success and the feedback we received from students indicated that they thoroughly enjoyed their welcome back to campus.**Return of the Pack Video**The student officer team brainstormed, scripted and acted in this video. The idea was to create as much of a buzz around the return to campus as possible. The video was a great success as we got over 1800 likes and 900 comments.  |
| New Student Engagement Co-Ordinator | I was on the interview panel for the new Student Engagement Co-Ordinator. This candidate will take over from the previous position of Events Co-Ordinator, with a slightly different job description. The new Student Engagement Co-Ordinator will start on the 20th of September. |
|  Freshers Week | Freshers Week will be similar to week 1. We are still limited by government guidelines but will do all we can to have as interactive and fun a fresher's week as possible! |
| ULSL Return to Campus Maps. | I organised for a student focused map to be designed by a final year Digital Media student who we paid. This Map will be printed off as a poster, with information about all our services available on the poster. The student officers will hand out the posters in the courtyard and student villages over the next few weeks. |
| **Media engagement and external relations** |
| **Engagement (Press, other organisations etc)** | **Purpose and anything to report on** |
| Irish Times | Return to Campus |
| Clare FMClare FMLive95 FMVirgin Media News | Advice on finding accommodation -The accommodation crisis / poor housing standards in Castletroy.The accommodation crisis / poor housing standards in Castletroy.Day one back on campus, the return of students..... anti-social behaviour off campus |