**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. Student Council nominations were good for week 1&2, slowed down in week 3. Next step for council is to review the vacant positions and try to reach out to students who may fit the roles. 90 Class reps elected as of this week – lower than it should be but hoping the first years will boost this number considerably in the next 2 weeks. |
| Class Rep Forums  | Plan for first class rep forum is relatively complete. SISC, SSOs, Academic Registry, ITD & PVA are all going to present. <10 mins each, allowing time for a Q&A, interactive breakout rooms and some prizes. Need to decide on prizes and order if necessary.  |
| 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. ¾ faculties have reviewed the % of classes that are online/F2F. Any modules that have particularly low hours on campus are moving some online tutorials back on campus to increase engagement.  |
| 1st year orientation webinars  | The other officers and I presented a webinar to new first years from each faculty this week. We gave a run through of all the departments and areas in Student Life and how they can get involved in student representation. Lots of prizes too.  |
| CAMPG  | I will raise the issue of the lack of a UL presence on campus resulting in many students coming to Student Life for information and support. Students also finding it hard to reach some staff members or departments. I will also ask for a space to be dedicated to commuter students who have nowhere to leave their bags or hang out at the moment.  |
| ***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  | Two weeks ago 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.  |
| EHS Management meeting | Started a conversation about the complaints process in UL and hoping to review and discuss this in relation to the EHS faculty at the next meeting.  |
| Also attended:  | SLOS, Academic Council, APRC  |
| ***Plans before the next meeting*** |
| **Action/work area** | **What I hope to achieve** |
| Programme & Website event for Class Rep Forum  | I will send a programme for the forum to presenters and invite them to stay for the whole session if they’d like. I will create an event for our website outlining the format of the event and encouraging participation  |
| Develop a doc reviewing the Student Status Committee and Advocates  | 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. Issue over the summer with the behaviour of the advocates.  |
| Work on Class Rep recruitment strategy  | Pop-ups to be held in the courtyard next week. Prizes for first years who sign up to rep roles.  |
| 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.  |
| Using SULIS to promote class reps  | Discuss with Gillian the possibility of using SULIS to promote the class rep roles to 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. Promoting the LevUL Up digital skills series being run over the next 5 weeks.  |
| 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.  |
| Student meetings  | Met with a student to discuss the fact that a lot of his course had moved to online learning instead of on campus. I outlined that he needed to collect feedback from the whole class and present this to the lecturer if he wanted more on-campus hours. This student has also signed up to be a class rep.  |
| **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.  |
| UL FM  | Myself, Seán and Jordan were interviewed by UL FM for their 10 year anniversary.  |