

**UL Student Life**

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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| **President** |
| **Author** | **:** | Cillian O’Donohue |
| **Date** | **:** | 12/10/2021 |
| **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.
* **For Week 4, Freshers Week, we wanted to create as much of a buzz as possible in the courtyard. We had stalls in the courtyard every day and music in the courtyard. I helped Cathal, our Marketing Co-Ordinator throughout the week and assisted in the planning.**
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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” .**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.
* **I brought the issue to the last Governing Authority meeting. I requested that the University Executive provide an Accommodation plan at the next meeting and also that the UL Accommodation office provide a report on their finding to give the governors an insight. I have received confirmation last week from the Chancellor that this will be on the agenda of the next meeting.**
* **I was the only 1 of 9 Directors at the PCC board of Directors who voted against the approval of twin rooms on campus for the 2022/23 year, including the UL President. This is the stance of ULSL and has been since these rooms were first brought about in 2020. The solution arrived was that PCC would revisit a survey that was circulated in 2019, to which 92% of students told they were not interested in twin rooms. If PCC believe the demand is there, they will bring in twin rooms for the 2022/23 academic year.**
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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.**I met with the students to discuss their ideas around the App. I followed this up with a meeting with the Provost Nigel Healey and the ITD director Liam O’Reilly to discuss UL’s involvement. UL are in favour of the idea but maintenance and finance may be an issue for them. The students are currently drafting a white paper proposal to bring to UL that will address any concerns they have.** |
| **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 / CAMPGFHRAMC**UL Rainbow Jersey Launch****Orientation Webinar’s for First Years****Community Liaison Committe****PVA (President Volunteer Award) ceremony** **New University President** | 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.**The Covid I-Grade is something that Alice and I have been working on a lot recently. UL would like to remove it as we are back on campus but we argue that with lots of college still online and many exams being online, we believe it should stay.**The decision was taken to recommend to the Governing Authority to continue the build of the new Student centre**I attended the launch of the Rainbow UL GAA jersey. This was an initiative which began with UL GAA who are part of our C&S department. I invited Virgin Media new to the launch in order to bring more exposure to the event.****We ran the Orientation Webinars for incoming first years from the 20th to the 23rd of September (Week 3). We aimed to make these as interactive as possible, and we felt that the first years enjoyed them.****I attended the Meeting on Friday the 17th to discuss the anti-social behaviour off campus with UL, residents committees and An Gardaí. I gave an update on the return of the MnM’s from the 26th, which was welcomed by the residents. Cían Quinlan ran the MnM’s throughout week 4 and it was a great success.****I attended the online PVA ceremony, that recognises the great efforst of our student volunteers in UL. My speech was in the booklet, congratulating students on their success. Congrats to any council member who received the PVA award.****I attended the Special Meeting of the Governing Authority which confirmed Kerstin Mey as the new President. My predecessor Cían Quinlan was involved in the nomination process which led to Kerstin’s election, but I met with all 6 of the final candidates to discuss the role.** |
| ***Plans before the next meeting*** |
| **Action/work area** |  |
| UL APP | I hope to receive the proposal from the two students and take it from there. I will follow up with another meeting with the Provost and ITD director. |
| Events | Continue to work with Dara to discuss future events and help with any way I can, and look at what we can start to do after restrictions end on the 22nd of October |
| New report before October 22nd | I aim to compile a report that I will bring to instagram, which shows all changes that will happen in UL from the 22nd of October, when restritions ease. (Mask Wearing etc.) I hope to bring more clarity for UL students |
| **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.**I have met with Dara to discuss future events, including Charity week. We discussed possible acts and this led to a student Instagram survey to see what type of acts students would like to see.** |
|  **Freshers Week** | **Freshers Week was an immense success. We are still limited by government guidelines but we do all we could to have as interactive and fun a fresher's week as possible! We had stalls in the courtyard as well as music and lots of free Freshers packs.**  |
| 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 NewsRTE NewsVirgin Media NewsSunday Times | 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**Commuter Students****Accommodation Crisis****University Guide** |