**UL Student Life**

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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| **President** |
| **Author** | **:** | Seán Ó Maoilchiaráin  |
| **Date** | **:** | 26/10/2021 |
| **Audience**  | **:** | **UL Student Council** |
| **Action** | **:** | **Approve** |
| ***Goals*** |
| **Main Goals** | **Progress** |
| Any Time of the Month | I was approached by a company offering wholesale pricings on period products as well as dispensers to hold them which UL could use to tackle period poverty on our campus. I brought this to a meeting of Access, Equality and Student Affairs, at which, Kerstin May requested I bring an official proposal to the University of Limerick executive. |
| Campaigns | **Feel good Fridays**: The series continues to be well-received and the feedback from students indicates that it’s a great form of engagement and even entertainment. **S.H.A.G (Sexual Health and Guidance Week):** The week went really well; we had a number of talks around Consent and also ‘Good Sex 101’ from Dr. Caroline West. The student feedback was great and there was great interaction with our courtyard pop-ups. We also had the return of the scholar’s sex quiz, which was a huge success as the first in-person event back.**Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction:** This happened during week 7. The main aim was to spread info around D&A harm reduction. We also had talks from addiction counsellor Joe Slattery and Ana Liffey which students found really informative and beneficial.  |
| Mental Health Survey  | I launched the mental health survey as promised in the last report. The aim of this will be to act as a temperature check to see how students are coping with mental health as they return to campus. The results will also inform our plans for mental health and wellbeing week.  |
| ***Other Achievements since last Council*** |
| Speak Out tool launch  | I attended a filming day for the launch of the speak out tool. This is an anonymous reporting tool for incidents of harassment, assault, sexual assault and violence. The video will be used as part of the national launch. |
| Campaign Weeks.  | Successfully ran two campaign weeks as detailed above.  |
| ***Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agreed*** |
| **Event/ Meeting** | **Outcomes and/or actions taken or agreed on** |
| Sexual Health and Wellbeing group. | We are coming to the final stages of finalising the proposal document to change the policy relating to sexual assault and violence in UL. This is a hugely important document and one that will have huge long-term benefits for all members of our campus community. |
|  Meeting with Sarah Kennedy, Healthy UL Manager | Sarah is new to her role so this meeting was an introduction to her and the job she would have overseeing the different sub-groups of the healthy campus initiative. It was highly productive and Sarah was very open and engaged with our ideas for the future. |
| Access Equality and Student Affairs.  | I was given the opportunity to give updates on the current state of student mental health provision on campus. I highlighted the failings of UL in this area and called for money and resources to be made available as soon as possible. I also gave the update detailed above relating to Anytime of the Month. |
| Student Pregnancy Policy | This meeting discussed the lack of breastfeeding facilities on campus and what needs to be done to address the issue. It also is looking into how we can improve our supports for pregnant students.  |
| ***Plans before the next meeting*** |
| **Action/work area** | **What I hope to achieve** |
| Anytime of the Month report to Executive  | I am working with Dr. Marie Connolly to finalise a report to be presented to the University Executive which will detail costings and pricings to implement free period product provision in UL.  |
| Mental Health and Wellness Week.  | I want to have a plan finalised for what we’re going to do this week. I want to make a big statement about how much we as a union prioritise student mental health and I want to see UL make money available to support this. |
| Write formal letter to minister of housing about the accommodation crisis. | The minister for housing never responded to our call for a meeting so I plan to call him out on this and invite him once again to discuss solutions and ideas to tackle the housing crisis in our area in a meaningful way. We need a commitment from the government to end this crisis as soon as possible.  |
| **Student Engagement** |
| **Type of Engagement (Meeting, event etc)** | **Purpose and anything to report on** |
| Feel good Friday  | Another week of getting out around campus meeting students to talk about the things they’re enjoying about being back on campus.  |
| Courtyard Pop-Ups | During SHAG week, I did pop-ups in the courtyard that aimed to educate students around sexual health and wellbeing. I gave out free condoms, lube and STI testing kits. |
| Social media  | I try to keep an active presence on Student Life social media platforms to make sure students feel connected to their officer team through those channels. |
| Workshops | I ran two workshops during SHAG week on consent and communication during sex. Then in Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction week, I interviewed Joe Slattery about how to support those in addiction and hosted a talk from Ana Liffey about drug and alcohol harm reduction. |
| **Media engagement and external relations** |
| **Engagement (Press, other organisations etc)** | I gave comments to a reporter from Limerick Voice about why there isn’t a pharmacy on campus. It was a slow couple of weeks for media engagement.  |