

UL Student Council 24/25

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: UL Student Council

Date: October 1st, 2024 (Semester 1, Week 4)

Time: 6:00 PM

Venue: Library Boardroom

Members:

Ronan Cahill; Sean Keane; Siofra Foley; Dervla Ryan; Lucy Edith Kiiza; Jack Trehy; Eoghan O'Mahony; Alexander De Barra; Katelyn O'Regan; Gregory Shiel; Aaliyah Popoola; Prathiksha Maria Faustina; John Lokuta Ewoi; Karen Sarathy; Miko Akeem Augustus Mc Intosh

In Attendance: Dáire Martin, Maeve Lynes

Apologies: Aaliyah Popoola; Alexander De Barra

No.	Items	Responsible	Time
1.	Minutes and Matters Arising Minutes of Exec Meeting –		5 mins
a.	Review & Ratify previous Mins – minutes from last meeting ratified proposed by jack second by Eoghan		5 mins
2.	Meeting Business		
a	Brief Updates 1. President		15 mins

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the summer Ronan trained and worked with student officers on the training for their roles for the upcoming year. • Orientation was a massive planning session over the summer and getting ready for the introduction speeches for the incoming 1st years. • Ticket prices for events was a massive part of Ronan's manifesto point. During the summer Ronan worked with the events team to help reduce the cost of events prices with prices being as low €15 and €11 for events during fresher's week for students. Ronan wants to keep this momentum coming as we head into refreshers week in January and Charity week in February • €4000 was granted to UL student like for the commuter hub this semester by university of limerick. Ronan and team will review it after this semester and go back to the university with an offer to increase the budget for commuter students as there is more commuter students this semester so far compared to last year at this time, with it only to increase if we add an extra day. • Introduction of two vending machines for the library to allow food and drinks to be available after hours. This is a huge win in terms of having a facility available to have food and drink after hours for students in the library. • Tender went out for Spar shop on campus, and they have agreed to another 4 years on campus. Within this agreement they will be agreeing to getting the bottle return bins installed into the shop as they are charging the 15/25 cent extra for bottles and cans. <p>2. Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing hub had a massive interaction during freshers' week. This was to inform student on the drug harm reduction and sexual wellbeing. It was funding by PCC and had condoms, cup covers, and more were given out over the 3 days of freshers with 148,000 students engaged over the 3 nights. • Helped Dervla run Stitch and bitch which was a massive success and will be holding another one during Halloween • Sexual violence and harassment policy was finally passed by Governing Authority last week and will be published shortly • Flourish fest will be held on the 9th October in the courtyard and will have loads of services that we have to offer in the university for students so that they become aware of the 		
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	<p>services that are on offer to them here on campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23rd October a drug and alcohol awareness day will be held in the courtyard to promote the information on what to do around drug and alcohol awareness <p>3. Academic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejected the proposal for the late fee's being set up again for late registration on students. Unfortunately, they have decided to go ahead with the motion on charging late fees for late registration. • Holding and co-op and Erasmus drop-in session in the courtyard meeting room this Thursday. Co-op office will be in attendance to help with student's issues around co-op. Allows past and present students going on co-op and Erasmus a chance to ask questions or give feedback to help improve the overall system and help someone else who is going on co-op/Erasmus. • Promoting class reps in the BA Arts class this Thursday with a presentation. Hoping to get more class reps involved this year. • First class rep forum is next Wednesday 9th October and working with LRO to create the agenda and set up of the event. • Creating a flow chart for academic issues with the advice team so it is easier for students to understand what will happen to them if they fail an exam or need to defer for a year. This flow chart will offer an easier way for the student to understand their next steps. • Adamic fair will be held on the 14th October in the courtyard or library weather dependent. Currently trying to get space in the library for the event. • Carpooling is something Sean has on his manifesto and wants to set up a WhatsApp group chat for people to be able to set up lifts for the commuter students that may be in remote areas or traveling long distance so offering them a chance to interact and make friends while also lowering the amount of traffic hopefully coming into campus. <p>4. Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stitch and bitch with siofra was a massive success with loads of interaction from students and will be holding another one in Halloween. • Zen zone is running every Tuesday in the student life building • Breastfeeding friendly campus working with the PSU on this issue and will update when more to come 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on creating a travel heat map for the students that are commuting with Eoghan • Starting a community team this month and will be promoting it on socials. • Starting deaf awareness training conformed and working with PSU to get more promotion around sign language set up around the campus for students. • Working on EDI strategy with Nicole Ryan for ul student life and will update when there is more information. • C&S has started last week. The budget was the main issue being discussed at the meeting. Currently have not been able to select the clubs/societies officer's and hopefully will have them next meeting. <p>5. Student Council Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not elected <p>6. Faculties Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Sean on getting more class reps elected by creating graphics and doing outreach through his courses and faculties. • Working with Ronan on the workings of the union and the engagement with the union and council and executive. • Working with Dervla creating a heat map on commuting students with the info from travel limerick survey. • Working on a graphic with Sean that can be sent to all lectures for class reps to be displayed at the first 10 minutes of class for students to scan and get information on being a class rep. <p>7. Clubs Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not elected <p>8. Events Chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not elected <p>9. Student Experience Chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies sent <p>10. Equality & Diversity Chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Dervla on the Zen zone and increasing access to head zone places for students to destress and have a sensory space for student that is available more often. • Continuing work on the map for where lifts don't work on the campus. Will loop in with student life should Jack need help with this. • Working with Eoghan on a by law change with how elections of council positions are affected when it comes to a tie in votes. • Will be getting in contact with his interest group councilors so that concerns can be brought to executive should they have any issues. 		
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	<p>11. PSU Nominee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Came into office on the 2nd of august with a team of 5 with a new PDH officer elected this year. • Held orientation with the new PHD students and worked with UL globe to show the PHD students what is on offer at the university • Breakfast system is now up and running with 5000 invest from the university. Will see how this is running and will discuss a plan with Ronan to get an increase in the budget for the PSU breakfast mornings. • Reaching to class reps to get them to nominate themselves for their course. PSU went to classes to make them aware of what it is like to become a class rep and why is important to become a class rep. • Met with the student life officers this week to see how we can help out each other. This will become a monthly thing moving forward. • Puppy time is coming up in the library shortly with dates to be confirmed <p>12. Societies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not elected 		
<p>b.</p>	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ronan welcomed the new council members into the meeting and gave them information on what council is all about. Council will run every second Tuesday from now till end of semester. - Ronan wanted to note that while he is currently chairing the meeting tonight it will not be like this all semester as we will be electing a student council chairperson shortly. Daire will speak on this election process in the meeting. - Ronan spoke on his role as being student president for the second year in a row and what his role is as president and how he will be upholding the union for all actions and motions brought by council. 	<p>Ronan</p>	<p>5 mins</p>
<p>c.</p>	<p>Election of Student Council Chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently as you are aware the student council chairperson is currently not elected. No one ran in March during the elections period and thus it rolled over to September but unfortunately no one was elected for the position during this time. - Work is still on going for this position within the LRO team. - Ronan will currently run the meeting in the absents of a council chairperson. Ronan would like for someone to be elected as duty chair as currently all points on the agenda are being held by him and he would like to deputise someone as chairperson in the meantime allowing him to be help accountable in his executive/president position. 	<p>Daire</p>	<p>5 mins</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eoghan put himself forward to be nominated as duty chairperson. Jack proposed and Katelyn second for Eoghan to be duty chairperson. <p>Eoghan is now duty chairperson until the position is now filled.</p>		
d.	<p>Charity Week Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have a long list of charity parents for council to narrow down to the 4 main charity partners for students to vote on. Ronan will send an all-student email with the 4 charity partners that was chosen by council as we used to put it on Instagram stories by found that any charity that had massive followings tend to get more votes so decided it would be best to go via student email as it is the student charity week. - The following are the charity partners council picked from Milford House, Jack & Jill, Barretstown, Daisy Lodge, MSF Ireland - Doctors without Borders, Irish Cancer Society, Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, Clares Wish, Rehab Group, Focus Ireland, GOSH, feileacain - A poll was used on teams to select the 4 charity parents that will be brought to UL Students to vote on Thursday. - Council was given a few minutes to decide on the charity partners. - Charity partners chosen are as follows - MSF Ireland - Doctors without Borders Milford House Gosh Rehab Group 	Ronan	5 mins
e.	<p>Charity Week Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chosen date for charity week is for week 5 24th of February 2025. - Ronan discussed how it used to be during week 9 and last year decided to ratify the dates to bring it forward from week 9 to week 5 as town would hold their own charity week but not give to any charities. - Week 5 is the proposed week – proposed by jack and second by Greg 	Ronan	5 mins
f.	<p>Student Centre Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brilliant progress over the last few months for the student centre. - Had a management meeting around the student centre with the update being that the building will be ready for the start of December with currently no delays. Ronan put loads of pressure on the team to get the building done but unfortunately there has been delays that are out of our control. 	Ronan	5 mins

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will be hopefully open for second of semester for the students which is a positive outcome. - Hard hat tours will be held during the semester for council to get to see the inside of the building and get a feel for the building before its open to students and the public. This will allow council the chance to see the building and be able to answer any and all questions being asked of them on the student centre building. - Ronan will present at next council meeting on the student centre video and tell council what will be available for students within the new student centre. 		
g.	<p>Meeting with Minister O'Donovan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ronan and Siofra went to Dublin on Monday last week to meet Minister O'Donovan in Leinster house. PSU was also in attendance with student life for this meeting. - Main issues spoken was around accommodation services for students. Last year there was 250 million pot created last year by the government for the creation of public built student accommodation. There was no real update on this item they are looking at creating a standard for the country as there is different costs around creating each student accommodation in different county's accrues different costs. - Mental health was the next discussion topic. There is current 1 student per 2340's students, EU recommended safe ratio is 1 per 1000 so national average is way off. Currently looking for more investment in student mental health for universities as it is really difficult for people to get GP's in Castletroy currently for students. - PHD stipends increased and brought to minister by the PSU - Student finance there is hidden costs with teaching and nursing that students aren't getting paid but have to pay out for travel, materials etc to a student which is unfair as there is a current cost of living crisis. - Accommodations crisis within UL are at an all-time high. Students are couch surfing, Ronan 5 mins homeless and commuting up to 3hrs away daily which is totally unacceptable. Ronan brought this massive issue UL is having to the Minister as this is a massive crisis and is getting nowhere with the University Management. - Delighted with how prepared both himself (President) and Welfare Officer was for this meeting. - Will be meeting with the minister again hopefully this side of Christmas. Ronan will follow up with him. 	Ronan	5 mins
h.	Open Day Demonstration	Ronan	5 mins

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Put out to governing authority to act on putting plans in place with accommodation crisis that faces UL Students. Ronan wants to make it clear to the university that if things don't change that he will be looking to a protest to be held on the open days with the backing of the student's union. - Ronan is sick of constantly sick of bringing this issue to people within the university and nothing being done and believes that the impact of a protest during protest during open days. - Ronan was looking for at least 20 people to join him in a protest to show the university that the accommodation crisis within UL is really at an all time high and help us get our voices through to the university and how it is a massive issue for our students and would believe that this protest would get media coverage and get the university to finally act as the protest will make the university look bad and get the accommodation crisis under control. - Open day is the 17th and 18th October 2024. - Wants to create signs with catchy headlines. - Will be discussion further at the next meeting 		
i.	USI Walkout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting last day with the minister in Leinster house. Ronan brought that USI are doing a walk out on the 17th of October. Looking to focus on our own students focus and would recommend not doing the walk out on the 17th. - Council agreed that it would be best to focus on their own plans and not follow USI in a walkout on the 17th October 	Ronan	5 mins
j.	Commuter Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commuter hub is running Monday – Wednesday from 8am - 9am - Funding was gotten by Ronan last year for the commuter hub. This was a massive success and fully funded by the university. - Hit 105 students this year to date which is more than last year to date for the commuter hub. This really shows that the need for the commuter hub has grown with the increased number of commuter students this year. - Student's commuting has increased massively this year and Dervla found that on Thursdays there are a massive number of students waiting around in the mornings and would like to get the Thursday into the commuter hub days bus is wondering if it would be better to wait till the new student centre is open. - However, if we can get more volunteers, it would be possible to get the Thursday added to the commuter hub as it is currently being ran by student officers. 	Dervla	5 mins

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council have decided that it would be in support of adding another day (Thursday) to the commuter hub rota should we get the volunteers to help. - Student officers will investigate getting a donation box for students who can donate to the commuter hub. 		
3.	AOB		5 mins

Duration: 90 Mins |