

UL Student Council 25/26

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: UL Student Council

Date: 28th October 2025 (Semester 1, Week 8)

Time: 6:00 PM

Venue: Library Boardroom

Members:

Student President: Síofra Foley; **Welfare officer:** Orlagh O'Regan; **Academic Officer:** Jared Nadin; **Diversity & Inclusion Officer:** Dervla Ryan; **Student Council Chairperson:** VACANT; **Experience Chairperson:** Jack Trehy; **Events Chairperson:** Todor Aleksandrov; **Equality & Diversity Chairperson:** Marlene Schwingeler; **Clubs Officer:** Eva McCormack; **Societies Officer:** Cuán Hayes; **Oifigeach Na Geailge:** Katelynn Cremin; **Faculties Officer:** Kye Earle **Disabilities Councilor:** Martina Phelan; **Equality & Diversity Councilor:** Muhammed Abid Aslam; **LGBTQI Councilor:** Ellen Murphy; **Student Affairs Councilor:** Nurjahan Islam; **Student Services Councilor:** Noyonika Dhruv Patel; **Volunteering Councilor:** Manya Prakash; **Sanctuary Rep:** NOT FILLED **Community Councilor:** Fetema Shujaei; **Mature Student Councilor:** Dorothy Madden; **First Year Councilor:** Paul Oyediji; **Student Parent Rep:** NOT FILLED; **Student Carer Rep:** Conor Curran; **Travelers Rep:** NOT FILLED; **Women's Rep:** Wala Baagagah; **BIPOC Rep:** Pooja Vinod; **Home International Councilor:** Roisin Dunphy; **Visiting International Rep:** Fo Pei Shen; **Co-Op Education Councilor:** Naman Kaur; **Campus Facilities Councilor:** Oluwadara Alabi; **Sustainability Rep:** Bhavika Bhosale; **Sports Councilor:** Christian Houlihan; **Activities Councilor:** Oliver Maughan; **Entertainments Councilor/Deputy Chair:** Nathan Beaumont; **History and Geography:** Daniel Spaight; **Sociology Rep:** NOT FILLED; **Psychology Rep:** Charlate McSweeney; **Modern Languages & Applied Linguistics:** Adrian Rene; **English Irish and Communication:** Hannah McNally; **Music & Dance Rep:** Valeriia Tkackenko; **School of Education Rep:** Sean O'Neill; **Architecture and Product Design:** Jack Feery; **Accounting & Finance Rep:** Pratyush Jhunjun Wala; **Management & Marketing Rep:** Abigail Smith; **Law Rep:** NOT FILLED; **Econ Rep:** Mark Supple; **Politics & Public Rep:** Sean O'Halloran; **Work and Employment Studies Rep:** Alexandros Nte- Lorentzo; **Computer Science Rep:**

Stephanie Dias Carvalho; **Engineering Rep:** Rosin Philbey; **Electronic & Computer Engineering Rep:** Alex Gallet; **Physics Rep:** Steeva Mathew; **Chemical Rep:** Tadgh Sheehan; **Biology Rep:** Chinmai Meda; **Nursing & Midwifery Rep:** NOT FILLED; **Allied Health:** Sean O'Connell; **Medicine Rep:** NOT FILLED; **PESS Rep:** Dermot Dwane; **Math's & Stats Councilor:** Thomas Meenaghan

Attendance: **Leadership & Representation Admin;** Maeve Lynes, **Leadership & Representation Co-Ordinator;** Alex Balfe

Apologies: Cuàn Hayes; Mahdi Nohtani; Abi Smith; Steeva Mathew; Katelynn Cremin; Pooja Vinod; Roisin Dunphy; Stephanie Carvalho; Martina Phelan; Muhammad Abid Aslam; Alexandros Nte Lorentzo; Orlagh O'Regan; Jared Nadin

No.	Items	Action	Owner
1.	Approval of the Agenda	For Approval	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising Council is happy to approve the minutes	For Approval	
	Declarations of Interest Eva works at Kabiso and would like to step out of the room should we speak on this item during the meeting.	For Note	
3.	Correspondence We have received a resignation from our student council chair. We would like to thank Alexander for all his work over the summer and over the weeks as council chair. A Bye election will be run to get a new council chair elected to the role for the rest of the year. We will be running through this in the agenda item below.	For Note	LRO Co-Ordinator

4.	<p>Officer Updates:</p> <p>A. Postgraduate Students' Union President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies sent <p>B. Societies Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies sent <p>C. Clubs Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have discussed with C&S Executive that they need a second member to attend Student Sport Ireland Ambassador meetings with them. Should none of the C&S Executive be interested in this role, the role will be opened to members of C&S Council and Student Council, as the delegate who sits on SSIA with them is required to sit on at least one board with them • Attended both C&S Council week 5 where 2 societies – Psychology and Media – were passed by C&S Council. <p>D. Faculties Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended faculty boards last week and there were no pressing notes from the board for current students. <p>E. Oifigeach na Gaeilge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies sent <p>F. UL Experience Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reached out to members of B&E regarding the accessible toilets around campus and will follow up with them on this issue as they have not yet responded. <p>G. Equality and Diversity Chair</p>	For Discussion	
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- Attended the carer morning last week that the D&I officer organised.
- Attended the meet the reps coffee morning organised by the Academic Officer
- Attended scrap and yap
- Helped the Academic officer with the set up and break down of the academic fair.
- Chaired first interest group and will be scheduling the next one shortly
- Attended the mature student catch up last week
- Attended the demonstration during open days

H. [Student Events Chair](#)

- Focused on helping with the open days.
- Working on organizing a Christmas party for the mature students

I. [Vice President Diversity and Inclusion](#)

- Addressing ongoing reports of racism and homophobia have brought it to higher groups for help on this issue
- Sensory space has been working well thanks to the help of the Equality & Diversity chair.
- Community of care tea morning had great interaction with those who attended
- Working on getting your legal name change for those who would like to change their legal name to their

	<p>chosen name and working on getting this fixed with the help of EDI UL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on their Irish language mentorship • Working on getting on some healthy UL committees. • Worked with the welfare officer on the scrap and yap • Helped organise and run the demonstration during UL Open days • Well done Equality & Diversity chair on starting their interest groups. If any other executive member needs help with their interest group, please let me know. <p>J. Vice President Academic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies sent <p>K. Deputy President Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies sent <p>L. UL Student Life Student President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have SEAEC meeting today to speak on the issues happening on campus • Hosted the PVA awards last week • Helped open the new student building over the last 3 weeks, which was amazing and such a great chance to speak with the minister of education. • Held reorientation during week 5 and had great engagement with the event during the week. • Held Pitbull night in the stables and was a great turnout was really enjoyable. It 		
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	<p>was great to see students at an event and not feel the need to drink.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helped with the demonstration during the UL Open day. Sadly, we had to move the banner from the garden due to health and safety. Student forum is next Wednesday 5th November. 		
5.	<p>By-Election Timeline</p> <p>Mon, Nov 3rd, 12pm – Nominations Open Wed, Nov 5th 12pm – Nominations Close Wed, Nov 5th 4pm – Campaigning Begins Thurs, Nov 6th – Campaigning Day Fri, Nov 7th – Campaigning Day Mon, Nov 10th – Campaigning Day Mon, Nov 10th, 6pm – Hustings Tues, Nov 11th, Election Day and Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the chair being resigned we have had to do a serious turnaround for our bye-election timing due to the next student council in 3 weeks. This has been passed by council 	For Decision	Leadership and Representation Co-Ordinator
6.	<p><u>Introduction of an Accommodation Councillor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the last council Equality and Diversity chairperson found a lot of students were coming to them with issues around accommodation. They are looking at adding an accommodation councillor to student council. Should this be passed, this position will be open immediately for students to run for this position. This person is not to help people find accommodation but to advocate for the 	For Approval	Equality & Diversity Chair

	<p>students who are struggling to find accommodation or who have issues within their accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is happy for this to be passed. 		
7.	<p><u>Mandate to create North Campus newsletter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is very little information provided to north campus students. • There is also little to no people working at the information desks that could provide information to students who may need it. • They would like to mandate a newsletter so that people in the north campus are getting the same information available to them that the rest of the campus gets. • They would like a group of students from student council to help create either a online form or even a newsletter that could be posted around north campus. • D&I officer asked what they see happening and what help they would need from UL Student Life. They believe they would need to try launch it next semester to help the first semester • Equality and diversity chair noted that there is a north campus working group. • President wants to ask who they would need help with regarding running this. They are not sure who they would need help with due to the fact they are unsure who to go too for help. President noted maybe the full-time officers could help with this but did not want to guarantee due to capacity. • Motion 17.3 was produced by faculty officer to postpone this item till the next council. 	For Approval	Irish World Academy of Music and Dance Representative

8.	<p><u>Improvements to the I-Grade Application Process to Better Support Student Carers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-Grades are often assessed as to what has happened to the student personally and there are no considerations given to extenuating circumstances and other day to day responsibilities that impede a student's ability to perform well. • The Vice President Academic to lobby the University of Limerick to improve the application process for I-Grades, to allow consideration for external factors (such as caring responsibilities) to be considered for I-Grades. • Mature Student Councillor and Equality & Diversity chair support this motion • Diversity and Inclusion Officer would like to support this motion • Motion was passed 	For Approval	Carers Councillor
9.	<p><u>Reintroduction of Blended Learning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mature student councillor has been running a survey for mature students where the biggest issue is timetabling, where they are only on campus for 1hr a day and this can be hard as a lot commute from a far distance • Looking to mandate the Academic officer to help get the needs they had during covid for recorded lectures and online lectures for students not only mature but others who struggle to be able to come on campus • Faculties officer would like to support • LGBTQ Councillor asked if this is a case-by-case basis or how does one apply for this 	For Approval	Mature Student Councillor

	<p>option. Mature student councilor said yes this is a case by case basis you would need to show proof of this issue for it to be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President spoke with the Academic officer before this meeting and would like it noted that they support this mandate. • Council have passed this mandate 		
10.	<p><u>UL Student Life to run events tailored to mature students</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has never been a mature student event on campus that isn't just tea and coffee. • Mature student councillor would like to mandate the D&I officer to help run at least 1 event per semester for mature students. • They would like this to be a mandate so that there is always a mature student event even if there is no mature student council elected to the position in the future. • Council has passed the motion 	For Approval	Mature Student Councillor
11.	<p><u>Election of Faculty Reps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculties officer asked for council members to nominate themselves for faculty rep for their department. • This person will work with the faculties officer and attend faculty boards for them should they not be able to attend the board meeting. • Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Valeriia Tkachenko – Irish World Academy of Music and Dance Rep • Education and Health Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ No one chosen 	For Decision	Faculties Officer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kemmy Business School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pratyush Jhunjhun Wala - Accounting and finance • Science and Engineering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ No one chosen <p>This has been postponed due to positions not being filled</p>		
	<p>AOB</p> <p>Kabiso Coffee (Entertainments Councillor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been issues with the owner of Kabiso with comments made online and a view that this is unprofessional. Entertainments councillor would like to bring in the owner of Kabiso to speak to him about his actions online • The price will never go down and they believe there should be better interaction with students on campus and try to figure out what is the best for students. • President would like to note that the GM in UL Student Life has spoken with the owner of Kabiso and those comments have since stopped. Please note this is not something we condone, and he has been made aware of these comments not being accepted. • Mature student councillor asked for the contract details. President said they will look into this as they are not aware of it right now. • Entertainment councillor asked if we could boycott the coffee shop. • D&I officer asked if council would like to let the officer team try work on this before we escalate it further and try and sort it with the officer team and Kabiso. • Chemical science rep asked if maybe after this conversation and nothing is being done if maybe 	For Discussion and Note	

	<p>there is an exit clause that could be used and try get someone else for this coffee shop instead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertainments councillor asked if maybe we could get the owner of Kabiso into council to discuss the issues being faced by council. President said they will ask him if he would attend. • Chemical rep asked if maybe we should vote for council to invite him to the next council in week 11. • Vote for the officer team to decide if after the meeting and no action is taken for him to be invited to the meeting - passed <p>Question to experience chair – Gaza cola</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical science rep asked if there is any update with getting the Gaza cola supplied on campus. Experience chair said they have no update on this item right now. <p>Mature student Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running a Christmas day event for mature students from 11-4pm new dawn room on the 12th of November all welcome to join. 		
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Duration: 90 Mins |