

UL STUDENT LIFE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-President Communities	
Author	: Mr Jordan Cassells
Date	: 21 October 2021
Audience	: UL Student Council
Action	: APPROVE
Goals	
Main Goals	Progress as at Friday October 22nd 2021

<p>Representing Communities' Interests and Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanctuary Students: Working with Provost Nigel Healy and Rhona McCormack (Director Student Affairs) to bring in interim measures around food and travel to meet the immediate needs of Sanctuary Scholars. Have also linked in Marie Connelly and awaiting responses. • Faith Groups: Muslim Women do not currently have a prayer space on campus as raised with me by Father John Campion from the Chaplaincy – They used to use shared space in Teach Fáilte although this was inadequate then and TF has been closed since March 2020. Raised with Patrick Ryan (VP Student Engagement) on Tuesday Oct 12th – will seek update again. • Preparing for to meet for Accessible Campus on November 4th with key members of the Access Equality and Student Affairs Committee to work towards implementation on the recommendations set out by Siobhán Long (Enable Ireland) and my predecessor Chelsea. • Commuter Students: Patrick Ryan VP Student Engagement had proposed the repurposing of the Bank of Ireland in the Students' Courtyard in Week 4. We (The Sabbatical Officer team) were in favour of the proposal although we have also since raised the issue of inadequacy for the short term as it seems there are no free hot water or microwaving facilities available to undergrad students in the entire campus. <p>I have designed a commuter student survey to ascertain the main issues facing commuter students. I am going to pilot this survey with Class Reps before pushing to all students. I am collaborating with Cillian to include accommodation in the survey to get some hard data to support our direct-action work and evidence our representation work on both issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Support Office: I am meeting with Caoilinn Kennedy to discuss the development of sensory space in the library, there was a project to develop this - but work was halted due to the Pandemic. Cillian was contacted by a student with an interest in campaigning/fundraising around developing services and facilities on campus and I have invited them to join student council with a view to engaging them with the DSO to feed into this project also. • Parent Students: Our Student Information and Support Co-Ordinators asked me to spread the word to about the Childcare Bursary to Student Parents in the week prior to applications closing – I posted to instagram but decided not to put up posters. <p>Silver Apples Crèche: Will be closing baby room in late December, currently waiting to meet with Creche Liaison Committee around this as they are a private commercial operator contracted by PCC. A community creche model may be more appropriate to meet the needs of the UL Campus Community – appx 48% of clients at the creche are Student Parents</p>
--	--

<p>Campaigns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key International Holidays: Am liaising with UL Global around provision of events for international students with a view to them being open to all students: upcoming dates are • Diwali • Diversity Week and International Festival • Thanksgiving <p>I have not made any progress with UL Global although I am due to meet them this week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity Week and International Festival <p>STAND Student Global Citizenship will be bringing their indoor exhibition to UL for Diversity Week. This marks the beginning of developing a relationship with STAND and the Union as they currently had no official presence on campus even though UL Students would independently engage with their ideas collective.</p>
<p>Recruitment for student council:</p>	<p>As the 5 week recruitment campaign closed and there are still vacancies on student council pertaining to my remit I am now able to move to driving more outreach to engage Student Communities and ensure they are heard and thus can be represented - however my first port of call will be to use the Student Forum (assuming attendance is higher than 50 people) on Thursday to inform what kind of outreach activity the Forum believes will work/would like to see</p>
<p><i>Other Achievements since last Council</i></p>	
<p>World Mental Health Day</p>	<p>a coffee morning in the Students' Courtyard to promote wellbeing and relaxation in conjunction with Mental Health Ireland. Student Life's Student Engagement Co-ordinator Dara Fahy led the delivery of the event and we engaged just under 30 students on relaxation and mental health</p>
<p>Freshers Week</p>	<p>Survived Fresher's week! The engagement with students was enormously energising and the Pop-Ups for student council and class reps recruitment were moderately successful. The MnM's were out at night, I merely supported the co-ordinator in their efforts, they all deserve honourable mention for an amazing service to students and the local community which will hopefully be developed further as student nightlife returns to Limerick and UL.</p>
<p>Clubs and Societies Council Chair</p>	<p>Chairing clubs and societies council as part of my role, had done so in week 3 but week 5 went well as did week 7. C&S Council have elected 5 out of their 6 C&S Executive to date. I also Chair C&S Executive and they have met weekly since week 6 and I am collaborating with Aisling on facilitating C&S to meaningfully re-engage with their governance structures after the effects of the Pandemic.</p>
<p><i>Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agreed</i></p>	
<p>Athena Swan Steering Committee</p>	<p>New Data Analyst hired, they will be responsible for scrutinising the data relating to uptake of posts and courses in UL by members of diverse groups. This post may also be able to provide high quality demographics which could aid the work of the Communities Officer.</p>

Meetings with Dara Fahy Student Engagement Co-Ordinator	
Access Equality and Student Affairs (Tues oct 19th)	As per Chair - "Jordan will you drive the introduction of those interim measures" – while I await official documentation I will be raising the issue with the Provost and Co as mentioned elsewhere in this report.
Student Information and Support Co-Ordinators	Raised idea of outreach in a) off campus accommodation and b) temporary accommodation in the area. Next step is to get input from exec.
<i>Plans before the next meeting</i>	
Action/work area	What I hope to achieve
Recruitment for student council:	Poll Student Forum on outreach Follow up with Mature Students' Office re: representation information Plan outreach targeting a) specific communities and b) specific locations on campus.
Campaigns	Meet with Vivin and Vishal and Dara to finalise plan for diversity week and explore options for events Meet with UL Global around Key International Festival
Representation	Meet with DSO around supporting sensory project and getting student input.
Student Engagement	
Type of Engagement (Meeting, event etc)	Purpose and anything to report on
SHAG Week	Pop Up Stand for National Coming Out Day with GOSHH on Monday Helped out immediately prior to and at the SEX QUIZ

Pop-Up Stands Reps Recruitment	Recruitment for Class Reps and Student Council (focused on Class Reps this week) finished in Week 5
Media engagement and external relations	
Engagement (Press, other organisations etc)	Purpose and anything to report on
GOSHH Community Development	Staying in contact with GOSHH Community Development Workers (CDW), who have offered support to develop a Student/Staff Pride Network in UL. Ran a pop-up stall with Karina Murray CDW with GOSHH – Introduced her to Out In UL (LGBTQI+ Society) President in order to further conversation around establishing a Student Pride forum.