

UL STUDENT LIFE

BELONG TO
THE PACK

Student Executive Committee Report

Role/Position:	President
Author:	Ronan Cahill
Date:	9/10/24
Audience:	UL Student Council Executive
Action:	Approve

Goals

Main Goals	Progress (What have you achieved since the last Council Meeting)
<i>Organisation and Preparation for new academic year</i>	<p>As President, over the course of the summer months I led the Student Officer and the Union in organising and preparing for the new academic year. This involved various brainstorming and planning days to ensure the entire time were as prepared as possible for the new academic year.</p>
<i>Freshers Week/Orientation</i>	<p>Organised and led the Student Officer team in delivering 5 orientation talks across all faculties, highlighting awareness to new students about the role of UL Student Life as their students' union on campus as well as highlighting the various different supports and services we offer the student body. I did similar in my role as President delivering over 10 talks across all faculties including to the new group of GEMS students which has not previously been done.</p> <p>Worked and helped in the organisation of all freshers week gigs, which went fantastic. Various Residents and external stakeholders commended the smooth running and safety of our events.</p>

<p><i>Commuter Hub Funding</i></p>	<p>Drafted a proposal to seek funding from the University for the running of our Commuter Hub Breakfast Initiative. After meeting with the Officer of the Provost, UL Student Life was awarded €4000 to fund the Commuter Hub for Semester one of this academic year, with a full review to take place after semester one with the view to additional funding for Semester 2.</p>
<p><i>Parking Situation Statement</i></p>	<p>Discussed my frustration at the media coverage surrounding Cllr. Peter Doyle's motion brought forward to the City and County Council which is 'anti-student' and also frustrations shared by residents. Agreed with the Student Executive to address this issue by defending the interests of our members while also reminding students to be mindful and not to obstruct roads for emergency service access etc. Statement was drafted last week with the assistance of our Marketing and Communications Co-Ordinator and will be released this week.</p>

Other Achievements

Achievement	Details of Achievement
<p><i>Meeting with</i></p>	<p>Met Minister O'Donovan alongside Welfare Officer, USI, ULPSU, MISU and UCDSU in Leinster House discussing a</p>

<p><i>MFHERIS Patrick O'Donovan</i></p>	<p>comprehensive agenda which included Public Built Student Accommodation, Hidden Costs/Fees, PhD Stipends and Mental Health Supports. I also raised the issue of the Continuous Increase in Student Numbers here in UL and the need for more funding so universities can stop increasing numbers to bridge the funding gap. Stressed the consequences of the increase in students coming to UL and the Knock on effects it has on our accommodation crisis. Made it absolutely clear, that crisis does not do the situation in Limerick justice and that the amount of homeless students is at an alarming figure. Challenged the Minister about various points and also on previous promises from the department. Have agreed to meet again before Christmas.</p>
<p><i>USI(Union of Students Ireland) Meeting</i></p>	<p>Met with Chris Clifford, President of USI and discussed the year ahead and potential areas of collaboration and support. We also discussed USI coming to present to council and provide context for a council discussion around our non-affiliation. Chris agreed and confirmed the USI team would love to come and speak to council at a future date.</p>

Attendance at Events/Meetings & Actions

Taken/Agreed

Event/Meeting	Actions Taken / Agreed
<i>Governing Authority</i>	None
<i>Student Council/Student Executive</i>	Various different actions taken in terms of updates etc.
<i>Academic Council</i>	None
<i>Faculty Boards</i>	Circulating infographic for Class Rep recruitment to course leaders, faculty staff etc. Alongside Academic Officer and Faculty Officer

Student Engagement

Type of Engagement	Purpose and Anything to Report
<i>Officers on the Ground</i>	<p>Have spent 20+ Hours over the course of the start of the semester being visible on campus. Have been actively encouraging the full Officer Team to get out and be visible and approachable for students.</p>
<i>Emails</i>	<p>Have had various students reach out regarding a wide variety of topics/issues. Individual student queries have been referred to the Advice Team to talk on the case work. Have also referred class based problems to Academic Officer. Actively communicating with Student Officer Team and Advice Team in identifying and understanding student trends with the view to actively representing and investigating these student needs.</p> <p>Have had numerous students reach out regarding Parking Fines. Have developed protocol for dealing with such enquiries such as encouraging Student to Dispute fine and then informing student about Free Legal Aid in ULSL I can refer to as well as the possibility of seeking financial aid in circumstances where the student may not be financially able to pay the fine. Also encouraging students to be mindful of where they park via Statement on issue being released.</p>

<p><i>Commuter Hub</i></p>	<p>Attending and operating Commuter Hub on a weekly basis. This is a project I led on last year but have delegated the responsibility to Communities Officer who is now leading on the initiative. Continuously speaking with students and occasionally signposting, when needed, to various supports based on the need of the student. The most common issues being Transport Routes, Accommodation and financial struggles.</p>
<p><i>Class Rep Forum</i></p>	<p>Attended Class Rep forum alongside Student Officer Team. Spoke with various students and answered queries.</p>

Media & External Engagement

<p>Engagement Type (Press [Name], Organisation [Name], etc.)</p>	<p>Purpose and Anything to Report</p>
<p><i>Virgin Media</i></p>	<p>Took part in two different interviews discussing the accommodation crisis and also the various supports</p>

	available for students as they progress from secondary school to university life.
LIVE95	Spoke about the accommodation situation in UL and also regarding the lack of parking and traffic issues caused by the influx of students commuting as a symptom of the accomodation crisis.
Morning Ireland	Discussed the state of accommodation crisis facing students in Limerick. Representing the need for immediate measures and solutions.

Plans Before Next Council Meeting

Action / Work Area	What do you plan to achieve?
Open Day Demonstration	I have previously spoken to council and executive about a demonstration/ protest on the UL Open Day this year to represent the frustartions and anger amongst the student body with the ongoing accomodation crisis. I will lead on planning, organising and executing a demonstration on open day to ensure that UL are clear that out Union is not happy, and we will be ensuring

	<p>they are clear that until they can show they are actively trying to tackle this crisis, we will be actively highlighting and representing our Students' stance.</p>
<p><i>Governin Authority</i></p>	<p>Alongside the Welfare Officer, I will be gathering and producing our monthly UL Student Life report for the governing authority ensuring that the Governors and senior management of the university understand the issues and struggles facing students</p>