



Mary I Students Union, Limerick

Aontas na MacLéinn, Colaiste Mhuire Gan Smál, Luimneach

Meeting:	Union Council	Date:	28.10.2020 (Week 5)
Time:	6pm	Venue:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Chair:	MISU President	Minutes:	MISU Vice- President
Attendance:	52 Class Reps 4 Exec	Quorum:	25 (Total Elected Reps = 60)

Present

Executive Committee: MISU President, MISU Vice-President, Welfare & Equality Officer, Thurles College Officer.

Class Reps:

1st Year *Limerick:* Group 1B, 2A, 3A, 3B, 4A, 5A, 6A, 6B, ECCE (S.C), B.Ed Psych, English (J.R) (G.B), History, Geography, Psychology, Irish,

Thurles: Business and Accounting, Business and Religion

2nd Year: *Limerick:* Group 1A, 2B, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6B, 7A, B.Ed & Psych, ECCE, Psychology, Maths, History, Irish, English (J.B), CATS

Thurles: Business and Irish,

3rd Year: *Limerick:* Group 3A, 3B,4A, 6A, 7A,

Thurles: Business & Accounting, Business and Religion, Irish and Religion,

4th Year: *Limerick:* Group 4A, 6A, ECCE (E.T) (L.P), CATS, Music

PME: 1st year Group 2, 2nd year Group 1

Masters: MA in Applied Linguistics

Apologies

Limerick: 2nd year Group 1A

Thurles: Irish and Maths 1st

Absent

1st year: German, Theology,

2nd year: Business and Accounting, Business and Religion

3rd Year: Group 5B, B.Ed & Psych

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Unapproved Minutes

The minutes of the Union Council meeting held on the 15.04.2020 (Week 11) were approved.

3. Matters Arising

- Graduation was held remotely this year due to Covid-19. Students were conferred 'in absentia' by the President of UL and MIC. MISU held an open zoom call with graduates to get feedback on how they would like to see graduation take place. MISU President brought their feedback back to college management. It was decided that there would be an online celebration in the new year. MISU also created a graduation video for social media – graduates submitted pictures from their time in MIC.
- Students who were staying in MIC accommodation (RES block, Courtbrack) received refunds.

4. Sabbatical Officer Reports (meetings attended, updates, feedback required)

The President and Vice President gave reports on the work they have completed so far this semester and through the summer. The following was noted:

- MISU involvement with Orientation – Worked closely with MIC Staff and Director of Student Life during summer months to plan out Orientation. MISU recruited approx. 20 tour guides and sabbatical officers met with all 1st year during their on-campus visits.
- Both officers sit on approx. 30 college committees and are busy attending meetings every week, where they give student feedback when necessary. New committees have also been set up in light of COVID 19 and there is student representation on these committees.
- 'In Conversation' series with support services to be rolled out during semester 1. This is to promote all services available to students while online learning. Academic Learning Centre video is available to watch on MISU Instagram.
- Chats with Sabbats series was completed within the first 4 weeks of semester one. Overall, engagement was poor, except with 1st year cohorts.
- The Sabbaticals and the MISU staff have been reviewing and adapting how service is delivered to students. Majority of staff are now working from home but are still available via phone, email etc. Booking system available through Microsoft office, if students want to meet any staff member. Also, the MISU Online store is now live on our website.
- Campaign Weeks: Officers are working on a number of different campaign weeks to be rolled out during the year. E.g Positive Mental Health to take place during Week 6 and SHAG Week during week 7 and 8.

5. MISU By-Election

Nominations opened last Friday 23rd October and will close this Friday 30th October. The remainder part-time positions are: Irish and Culture Officer, Entertainments, Clubs & Sports, Societies and Postgraduate Officer.

Noted: Class Reps can not do both- hold position of class rep and Exec part-time officer. The only exception is Union Council Chairperson.

6. Election of UC Chairperson

The President outlined the Role & Responsibilities of Union Council Chair

4th year ECCE rep (E.Troy) was nominated. She accepted the nomination.

2nd year 2B rep (E. Feely) was nominated. She accepted the nomination.

3rd year B&R Rep (B.Byrne) was nominated. She accepted the nomination.

1st year Geography rep (C. Lenihan) was nominated. He accepted the nomination.

The position of chairperson was brought to a vote. All nominees left the call for the duration of the vote.

In favour of E.Troy: 19

In favour of E.Feely: 14

In favour of C. Lenihan: 6

In favour of B.Byrne: 12

Abstains: 0

Emma Troy was elected as Union Council Chairperson for 2020/2021.

7. Election of UC Secretary

The President outlined the Role & Responsibilities of the Union Council Secretary 2nd year B.Ed 5A (O.McDermott) was nominated. She accepted the nomination.

3rd year B&R Rep (B.Byrne) was nominated. She accepted the nomination.

1st year Geography rep (C. Lenihan) was nominated. He accepted the nomination.

The position of secretary. was brought to a vote. All nominees left the call for the duration of the vote.

In favour of O.McDermott: 26

In favour of B.Byrne: 12

In favour of C.Lenihan: 8

Abstain: 6

Orla Mc Dermott was elected as Union Council Secretary for 2020/2021.

8. Strategic Plan update

The President explained what the Strategic Plan (SP) was to the newest members of UC. The plan was approved by class reps in November 2019. An update was given on what MISU are doing to implement the SP and how some of the actions/goals had to be altered due to the COVID-19. The importance of class rep involvement was noted and reiterated how their feedback is central to achieving certain goals.

Updates on the Strategic Plan will be given to UC at the start and end of each academic year.

The Reporting Tool was used to show progress with SP goals.

9. Student Engagement

Class reps were asked to bring feedback and suggestions back to MISU on how best to engage with students this year as everything has moved online.

A suggestion of setting up a MS Teams for different subjects was mentioned- forums for classes to engage with each other.

Clubs & Socs was also noted as a useful form of engagement for students - however there was a delay in setting it up online so students hadn't access for the first few weeks of college.

10. Charities of the Year

This year MISU decided to pick charities for the year, instead of choosing ones for RAG Week only. UC suggested the following charities:

- Adapt
- Limerick Animal Welfare
- Enable Ireland
- Barnardos
- Irish Cancer Society
- Childrens Grief Centre
- Focus Ireland
- ASIAM
- Milford Hospice
- Children in Direct Provision.

Noted: Class reps would like to support a 'Mental Health Charity' this year, if possible. Exec members will discuss all suggestions at their next meeting.

11. Any Other Business (Thurles)

- Recording of online lectures: Students expressed issues in relation to this, in the case where students may lose internet access during a lecture and cannot watch back what they have missed.
- Students would like a separate meeting for Thurles student only. The President clarified that Thurles Class Rep Sub – Committee will be meeting on alternative weeks to Union Council.
Action: Thurles College Officer to arrange a time for next week.

12. Any Other Business (Limerick)

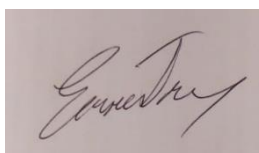
- Query in relation to accommodation refund for a Study abroad student. President recommended the student to contact international student and host institution in relation to refunds.
- **ICT issues** amongst students and difficulty accessing online resources from home.
- **Workload issues:** Students have raised concerns about the increased workload this semester. Reps feel it does not reflect the work they would normally have when on campus. There seems to be an increase in additional tasks re extra readings, quizzes, discussion forums, especially when no marks or 'credits' are being allocated. Vice-President asked reps to

express these concerns with lecturers first if there is any outstanding issues. **Action:** Sabbatical Officers to raise these concerns with course leaders and Deans.

- **Assessment Deadlines:** B.Eds reps voiced concerns about assessment deadlines and how not all deadlines have been finalised yet. Students feel it would be beneficial to have all dates at the start of the semester. **Action:** Vice-President to follow up
- **Academic Writing:** 1st year reps expressed issues with academic writing classes. There are no live lectures for this module, no opportunity for students to ask questions. The importance of Cite it Right-a useful resource for students. Vice-President also mentioned the ALC are working remotely and are available to students, q&a is available on Instagram. Noted that 1st year CATs do not receive this module. **Action:** Sabbatical Officers to follow up.
- **Online Exams:** 3rd year Bed rep voiced difficulty accessing an online exam- a possibility of giving a bigger time window to access so students don't run out of time. **Action:** Sabbatical Officers to raise concerns at relevant committee.
- **Query on 1st year PE gear:** 4th year rep clarified that students don't receive the PE gear until 2nd year but still must pay for it as part of fees.
- **Query on Garda Vetting Form:** President recommended students to contact SAA, Garda Vetting Officer in MIC.
- **Art Packs:** 1st year PME packs to be posted out soon- 1st year undergrads will receive them during semester 2.
- **Undergraduate Dissertation Deadlines:** Students expressed concerns about deadlines and queried if they will be extended. **Action:** Vice-President to follow up with Deans.
- **Thurles Assessment Issue:** Students recommended to contact the lecturer first and if they encounter more problems, to contact MISU Vice-President.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11th November @ 5.30pm via Zoom



Signed:

Date: 11.11.2020

Union Council Chair