



Date: Tuesday 31st January 2023

Week: 2

Time: 17:00pm

Location: MISU Meeting Room

In Attendance:

MISU President, Thurles Officer, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Welfare Officer, Union Council Chairperson, Postgraduate Officer, Student Activities Officer Limerick.

Apologies: Irish Language Officer, Student Activities Officer Thurles.

1. Welcome and Apologies

MISU President welcomed everyone to the meeting and will contact Sarah and Kate to inform them of items discussed.

2. Unapproved Minutes

Proposed by MISU President and seconded by Student Activities Officer Limerick.

3. Matters Arising

- The by-election in semester one for the Vice President position which remained vacant.
- The need to have the MISU website as Gaeilge. MISU is not a public body and as such, no laws have been broken by not having the MISU website bilingual. Other ideas will be considered for future updates of the website.
- Quorum was not met at the last Union Council and so previous documents will be carried over to Union Council on February 1st 2023.

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

- David's hours have been increased from 10 to 15 hours per week to allow for extra support. He has been attending meetings and filling various vacant board seats whilst Aoife was on leave.
- Aoife was in office on results day and attended to a variety of queries such as system crashes, fails, repeats, compensating fails and I Grades.
- As the Vice President position remains vacant, MISU has recruited a new intern to work the MISU Information and Services Desk which will free up the Information and Services Administrator to provide administrative support to the MISU President.
- Funding has now been approved for additional staff members which will allow for expansion of the Students' Union. MISU are currently recruiting for a Clubs, Societies & Engagement Administrator to join the team on an 18-month contract, making the position possibly suitable for recent graduates.
- MISU President mentioned about the possibility of a third Sabbatical Officer being added to the Executive Committee if approved by referendum.
- MISU President attended Academic Council, APAC etc.

5. Executive Officer Updates

Postgraduate Officer

- Attended the Arts Faculty Meeting.

- Supported a student whose exam paper was misplaced and as a result received an I Grade. Attended meetings with the student and Gaeilge Head of Department to understand how this happened. The issue has been resolved and student was happy with final grade offered.
- Postgrad Officer is planning on holding a Postgrad Coffee Morning at some point during the semester. Plans to follow.
- Examined the results of the Postgrad Survey held in semester one and contacted the two students who were chosen at random to win €25 cash prizes.
- Is in contact with the MISU Clubs & Societies Coordinator regarding setting up a Postgrad Society.
- Is actively working to create peer support groups for Postgrad students.
- Has liaised with the Information and Services Administrator to answer parking queries from Postgrad students.
- Has spoken with staff in the UL Postgrad services and mention was made about the possibility of another student walkout in the future.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer

- Was in contact with MISU President and MISU Postgraduate Officer regarding organising a multicultural day for later in the semester. Will contact the MISU Communications & Services Coordinator for further advice and support.
- Received an email from a student in Maynooth who would like to set up a meeting with the project coordinator of the VOICE programme to discuss the possibility of spreading awareness of the programme around MIC. The Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer will get in touch with the relevant personnel and will keep the Executive Committee updated on progress.

Welfare Officer

- Read the minutes from a Third Level Drug Awareness meeting they attended. Future plans to raise awareness around Student Race Day.
- Attended the launch of the MIC Staff LGBTQ+ network.
- Is liaising with the MISU Communications & Services Coordinator regarding a future student welfare event.
- Will contact the USI to gather more information on any potential student walkouts happening.

Thurles Officer

- Recently represented MIC in both Japan and Canada.
- Aided in the organisation of Tae agus Plé.
- Organised a mature student meet-up before the Christmas break.
- Helped to have student parking stickers established on the MIC Thurles Campus.
- Attended a programme meeting that discussed APAC, building issues and a D grade. No decisions have been made yet.

Student Activities Officer Limerick

- Received an email from a student querying the possibility of establishing a horse-riding society; will liaise with the MISU Clubs & Societies Coordinator on this.
- Will contact the MISU Communications & Services Coordinator about organising future student events such as Bingo Loco and quizzes.

Union Council Chair

- Nothing to report at this time.

Referendum

- Why is there a need for a referendum?
 - A third Sabbatical Officership is being proposed to support the President and Vice President, particularly with issues relating to welfare and student experience. The third Sabbatical Officership would be titled: Vice-President Student Experience & Wellbeing.
 - There is a need for this third Sabbatical Officership as the current structure of

- the Students' Union is not reflective of the growth in student numbers, particularly on the MIC Thurles Campus.
 - This additional Officership with help to make the organisational structures more accessible and understandable.
- What needs to be done?
 - Two articles of the MISU Constitution need to be redrafted to include this new role and a referendum will need to be held to vote in the changes to the constitution.
 - The Executive Committee roles will need to be redrafted to include the new Sabbatical Officership and each part-time officer will have a corresponding Sabbatical Officer.
- How will it look going forward?
 - The two Vice-Presidents will take turns going to the MIC Thurles Campus to ensure there is a Sabbatical Officer on campus at all times. There is no strict order or roster in place yet.
 - Current Thurles Officer raised questions about how new Officership will affect role. The new Vice-President Officership will not interfere with the day to day support offered by the Thurles Officer. The Thurles Officer will remain as a peer and someone for students to speak to on campus when the corresponding Sabbat is not present.
- Questions?
 - Thurles Officer raised the possibility of an Irish Language Officer for MIC Thurles as they feel that students should be conversing in Irish and be able to practice the language.
 - MISU President advised that the new Sabbatical Officership will focus on social related Irish activities and suggested waiting to see possibly results from the new Cumann Gaelach in Thurles as this could fulfil some of the needs highlighted by the Thurles Officer.
 - MISU President advised that there is expansion of the Executive Committee and MISU currently taking place and so no decisions will be made in the near future whilst the referendum is taking place.
- The proposed changes to the MISU Constitution were read by the MISU President, the Executive Committee are satisfied with the proposed changes and have called a referendum.
- The referendum can be held two weeks from date of this meeting but must take place no later than 4 weeks. Thursday of week 4 has been suggested such as in past years however the date is to be confirmed.
- MISU will now recruit a Returning Officer and begin circulating the wording for the referendum. The MISU President will check availability of past Returning Officers.
- Proposed changes to Schedules will be discussed in Union Council and updated as needed.

Strategic Plan

- The MISU President read out the updated Minimum Standards document which will go to Union Council on February 1st for approval and then uploaded to the MISU website once approved.
- The Policy for Advocacy will be brought to the next Executive Committee meeting.

6. Any Other Business

MISU President

- The crossover documentation for next academic years part-time officers will be done in week 12 of this semester.
- Limerick Charity Week will take place in week 3 and Thurles Charity Week in week 4. The Executive Committee need to make themselves available to fundraise on the

Limerick Campus and may need to help on the Thurles Campus with the tag rugby event and further fundraising.

- The MISU President would like to thank the MISU Communications & Services Coordinator for all her hard work and help in putting both Charity Weeks together this year.
- The MISU Elections will be coming up shortly. It is proposed for nominations to open on March 3rd and close on March 10th with voting day taking place on March 16th. The dates are up for change as holding a voting day so close to St. Patricks weekend could be problematic, as discussed.
- There are a number of vacant seats on boards within the college. The Student Activities Officer Limerick will sit on the Wired FM Board and the Teaching and Learning Directive whilst the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer will fill the Comhairle Acadúil vacancy.
- No other business.

7. Date & Time of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.