



Date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Week: 3

Time: 6pm

Location: Hybrid- MISU Meeting Room & Teams

**In Attendance:**

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

**Apologies:** Welfare Officer, Student Activities Officer Limerick.

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**1. Welcome and Apologies**

MISA president welcomed everyone and called meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**2. Unapproved Minutes**

Proposed by MISU President and seconded by the Postgraduate Officer.

**3. Matters Arising**

No matters arose.

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

- MISU President attended a series of meetings such as Finance, Resource Committee and met with the MIC President for updates.
- MISU President attended the Education Office course boards meetings to discuss the B.Ed, B.Ed & Psychology and PME Courses.
- MISU President was present at Union Council and participated in fundraising during Limerick Charity Week. The total raised will be confirmed at a later date.
- Together with the MISU General Manager, the MISU President met with the MIC Vice-President of Governance and Strategy to discuss updates.
- A meeting has been arranged for Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> between the MISU President and Vice-President of Academic Affairs to discuss issues that students are having with Placement.
- The MISU President has been in contact with the MIC Student Parent Coordinator and is actively working to resolve issues that student parents are experiencing regarding their timetables and finding childcare.
- The MISU president met some students and held case-by-case meetings as well as responding to various student emails.

**5. Executive Officer Updates**

Postgraduate Officer

- The Post Grad Officer participated in fundraising for Limerick Charity Week.
- They held two 'Coffee Breaks' with RGSO which was promoted via email, posters and the electronic screens around campus. Attendance was low at both meetings.
- The Post Grad Officer met with the MIC Graduate School Director and contacted the MIC Counselling Service regarding organising Peer Support Groups for Post Grad students.
- Has made further contact with the MISU Clubs & Socs Coordinator regarding setting up

- a Postgrad Society.
- Has a meeting arranged for Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> with the President of the UL Postgraduate Students' Union.

#### Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer

- The EDI Officer participated in fundraising for Limerick Charity Week on a number of days.
- They will be attending the MIC Staff Awareness meeting being held on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Thurles Officer

- The Thurles Officer has been dealing with student accommodation issues and set-up a WhatsApp Group Chat to address these issues.
- They have distributed the MISU Class Rep jumpers to 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students and participated in distributing the MISU Thurles Student Parking Stickers.
- There was a number of issues with Gaeltacht Placement and the swapping of locations between Kerry and Galway that had to be handled.
- Dealt with a number of student queries regarding the upcoming MISU Elections and having a piano on the Thurles Campus.
- Held a meeting with Sarah Fehan to discuss Graduate Employment and a separate meeting with the Head of School Thurles and Mary to discuss International Placement for Thurles students.
- The MIC Thurles Campus will be holding its Charity Week during week 4.
- Overall, the MIC Thurles Campus is quieter than normal due to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students being on placement.

#### Irish Officer

- The Irish Language Officer Met with Chloe Ní Ruairc from Conradh na Gaeilge (CnaG) to discuss the union's Irish language strategy for next semester and beyond.
- They have registered for Ard-Fheis (weekend seminar with CnaG) being held from 24th-26th of February.
- They attended the Meitheal na Gaeilge meeting to develop a new MIC bilingual policy and reviewed MIC's previous bilingual policy in an effort to inform the new policy.
- Visited the Raidió na Gaeltachta studio i mBaile na nGall, Daingean Uí Chúis.
- The Irish Language Officer featured as a guest speaker and performer on 'Eachtraigh Dom' le Pádraig Ó Sé and joined a working group of #Gaeilge4All. This is a campaign started in 2017 by CnaG to advocate for development of Irish as a subject across Ireland's education system.
- They attended a meeting with representatives from INTO to discuss opportunities and the union's support system for student teacher members.
- Corresponded with John Cooke of RTÉ Radio 1 over the subbing crisis in primary schools and MIC's response to the crisis.
- Attended a Seachtain na Gaeilge brainstorming session with CnaG and representatives from other colleges around the country.
- Secured several places for MIC students on the Irish Careers Workshop being held at UL on February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Registered for and competed in #Dúshlán24 (a 50-hour competition) and attended a graphic design workshop, both being ran by CnaG.
- Re-launched an Irish radio show with new title 'Nóisin' and new co-host, Cian Mac Coisteala.
- Established a support system for students seeking help with Gaeilge.
- Organised and attended meetings with An Dr Caitríona Breathnach and the Cumann Gaelach committee.

#### Student Activities Officer (Thurles)

- The Student Activities Officer Thurles was in contact with the MISU Communications & Services Coordinator regarding events being organised as part of the MIC Thurles Charity Week and helped to publicise said events.
- They sent the latest Clubs & Socs Sports fixtures to the MISU Communications &

Engagement Administrator.

- Organised a final lady soccer match against the University of Galway where the men won and women placed second.

## 6. MISU Referendum & General Elections

### Returning Officer

- Andrew Mann has been approved to return as Returning Officer for the referendum and elections.

### Approved Dates for Elections

- Nominations Open: Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Nominations Close: Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Hustings: Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Voting Day: Tuesday, March, 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Any Other Business

### Subbing Issues

- There was a communications error whereby BA Psychology students were not included in correspondence relating to additional subbing.
- Some students are now running behind as a result of conflicting timetables.

### Lectures

- Students have expressed an interest in having some lectures moved online, particularly on a Friday whilst MIC is insistent on in-person classes.

### Irish Classes

- There have been reports of the classes being generally disorganised and the Irish Language Officer will draft a document with students concerns.

### Amendment (16/02/2023)

- Issues arose regarding substitution whereby some students were mistakenly included in correspondence and were left 10 days behind in some of their modules as a result.
- The Irish Language Officer drafted a document for Irish Supports.

### Academic Integrity

- There is a need for greater awareness of academic integrity among students.
- Use of AI in academics should be based on fairness and not just punishment.
- Some students are requiring support after experiencing blackmail by online essay scammers.

## 8. Date & Time of Next Meeting

- To be announced through poll on WhatsApp.