



Date: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Week: 4

Time: 6pm

Location: Hybrid- MISU Meeting Room & Teams

**In Attendance:**

MISU President, Thurles Officer, Irish Language Officer, Postgraduate Officer, Union Council Chairperson, Welfare Officer.

**Apologies:**

Student Activities Officer Thurles, Student Activities Officer Limerick, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer.

---

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

MISU president welcomed everyone and called meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**2. Unapproved Minutes**

Proposed by Irish Language Officer and seconded by the Thurles Officer.

**3. Matters Arising**

Amendment to minutes of previous meeting (09/02/2023)

- The Irish Language Officer has requested the 'Irish Classes' section listed under AOB in previous minutes be corrected.
- 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.
- Previous minutes need to be updated to read 'The Irish Language Officer drafted a document for Irish Supports' instead of 'The Irish Language Officer will draft a document with student's concerns'.

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

- MISU President attended various meetings including APAC on February 10<sup>th</sup>, Research Committee, Education Faculty and Union Council.
- MISU President was contacted by the Medical Centre with concerns over the lack of resources available and the service being short staffed. They are seeking feedback from students on the service and stated that 40 students used the service on Monday with 30 using it on Tuesday.
- The Counselling Service gave a presentation on bullying and mental health issues within the Bachelor of Education courses during the Education Faculty meeting. It was acknowledged that some of these issues could have been carried over from secondary school and that they are hoping to address these issues. The MISU Welfare Officer was asked if they would be interested in being involved in a campaign to help better understand toxic behaviour within oneself.
- Charity Week took place on the Thurles Campus on Monday (13<sup>th</sup> February) and Tuesday (14<sup>th</sup> February). An event was held in Noel Ryan's pub on the Monday whilst a Tag Rugby event took place on the MIC Thurles college grounds on Tuesday.
- MISU President received emails from students about ID cards services in relation to attendance. Some 4<sup>th</sup> Year BEd and BA students have been unable to scan in to class to mark their attendance. SAA is aware of the issue and it is being resolved.

- MISU President received emails from students about timetabling issues. Some students are finding it difficult to catch or use public transport with lectures being scheduled late on Friday evenings.
- MISU President received correspondence from students with regards to parking issues.

## 5. Executive Officer Updates

### Postgraduate Officer

- The Postgraduate Officer attended Research Committee along with the MISU President.
- The Postgraduate Officer met with UL Postgraduate SU President about hosting a Research Conference. This would involve MIC, TUS and UL. They have contacted TUS about this.
- The Postgraduate Officer took minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting in Week 3.
- The Postgraduate Officer attended Postgraduate Writing Sessions. Postgrad students have expressed an interest in having these classes held every day so more students can attend.
- The Postgraduate Officer is in contact with the MISU Clubs and Societies Coordinator about establishing a Postgraduate Society.
- The Postgraduate Officer was in contact with the MIC Counselling Service about Peer Support for Postgraduate students especially Master's by Research students. It was stated that such a programme already exists for PhD students.
- The Postgraduate Officer attended the Coffee Break Morning for Postgraduate Students.

### Irish Officer

- The Irish Language Officer has been involved with Meitheal na Gaeilge, the Irish Language strategy for the college. It will be launching on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> February at 1:15pm and all MISU Executive Committee Officers are invited.
- The Irish Language Officer met with Caitríona Breathnach and Emma Barry about a survey for students and their experiences with Irish in the college. A second meeting is arranged for Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.
- The Irish Language Officer is involved with a radio show on Radió Rírá, which airs on Monday nights and replays on Sunday nights.
- The Irish Language Officer is involved with the Cumann Gaelach in a supportive role.
- The Irish Language Officer informed the Executive Committee that Bingo Loco as Gaeilge will be taking place in UL for Seachtain na Gaeilge. Cumann Gaelach MIC has been invited and the event is also open to both MIC and UL students.
- The Irish Language Officer has created a Seachtain na Gaeilge focus group. They are looking for the SU to emphasise the importance of this event more. They are looking for an event to be held in Dolans at some point over the course of Seachtain na Gaeilge. They would like to have a Trad group or Ruaille Buaille play and for attendees to wear green. Seachtain na Gaeilge takes place from March 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. The MISU President recommended that an event take place during the first week as the MISU General Elections are taking place during the second week (March 14<sup>th</sup>).
- The Irish Language Officer met with the Head of School for MIC Thurles about international representation of the college and informed the Executive Committee that spaces are now open for a trip to New York.
- The Irish Language Officer asked if a 3<sup>rd</sup> Year student could run for Thurles Officer in the upcoming elections if they would be off campus for half of their term. The MISU President will check on this.

### Thurles Officer

- The Thurles Officer stated that 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students were off on Monday and that the campus was quiet on Tuesday due to Charity Week. They also noted that 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Years are not on campus at the moment.
- Charity Week took place in Thurles with an event in Noel Ryan's on Monday and Tag Rugby taking place on Tuesday.

### Welfare Officer

- The Welfare Officer met with staff and representatives from the Limerick Mental Health Association about an event which they are running in April. They are looking for students to get involved by either volunteering or providing music on the day.
- The Welfare Officer attended Union Council on Wednesday along with MISU President.
- The Welfare Officer has begun planning for Student Welfare Day which is scheduled to be held in week 8. The Welfare Officer intends to meet with the MISU Communications and Services coordinator soon to discuss further.

## **6. Any Other Business**

### Election Regulations

- As quorum was not met at this week's Union Council, the Executive Committee have approved the Election Regulations for the upcoming MISU General Elections. This will also need to be approved by class reps via email. These regulations include new sections on eligibility to work.

### Referendum

- The Thurles Officer expressed concern for voting in the upcoming Referendum as not many Thurles students are on campus this semester. The MISU President assured the Executive Committee that as the referendum is held predominantly online, more focus will be placed on promoting the referendum via social media.
- The Irish Language Officer suggested that members of Executive Committee perform class addresses and ask students to vote. The MISU President agreed with this.
- The Executive Committee were informed that a polling station would be set up on the Limerick campus, QR codes would be placed around both MIC campuses and sweets are being sent to the Thurles campus in advance of the referendum as an incentive to encourage students to vote.
- MISU President informed Executive Committee that at least 15% of the MIC student population needs to vote if the three motions are to pass.
- A roster is being finalised for Executive Committee Officers to man the polling station on the Limerick campus throughout the day of the referendum.

### Student Survey

- The Thurles Officer highlighted the fact that an Síopa vouchers are being offered as an incentive to take part in the Student Survey. This does not appeal to Thurles students as they would not be able to use the vouchers since an Síopa is on the MIC Limerick campus. The MISU President will inform the Quality Office of this.

## **7. Date & Time of Next Meeting**

- To be announced through poll on WhatsApp.