



Date: Thursday 23rd February 2023

Week: 5

Time: 6pm

Location: Hybrid- MISU Meeting Room & Teams

In Attendance:

MISU President, Thurles Officer, An tOifigeach Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer), Postgraduate Officer, Union Council Chairperson, Student Activities Officer Limerick, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Welfare Officer

Absent: Student Activities Officer Thurles

1. Welcome and Apologies

MISU President welcomed everyone and called meeting to order at 18:03pm. The MISU President did not receive an apology from Student Activities Officer Thurles.

2. Unapproved Minutes

Proposed by An tOifigeach Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer) and seconded by MISU President with amendments.

3. Matters Arising

Amendment to Previous Minutes

- The Minutes from week three's Executive Committee Meeting were amended to include a correction as requested by An tOifigeach Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer).

Bingo Loco as Gaeilge in UL

- Participation in Bingo Loco is yet to be finalised by An tOifigeach Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer).

Election Eligibility

- The MISU President clarified that any students wishing to run in the upcoming elections, need to be on campus in order to be eligible to hold a part-time Officership.

An Síopa vouchers in Thurles

- The vouchers have been extended to include Master Chef so students can use them in the canteen.

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

MISU President

- Attended a series of meetings such as the MIC Irish Language Review Report, the Arts Faculty Board meeting and Quality Committee meeting.
- Has caught up with student emails after taking a day of Annual Leave.
- Met with the MIC Vice-President of Academic Affairs to discuss graded placements.
- Attended the MISU Senior Management Team meeting and notified the Executive Committee that the MISU General Manager and MISU Clubs & Societies Coordinator will be attending a conference in Boston for the next week.

- Attended the Teaching and Learning Directorate meeting and participated in Advisory Board.
- Assisted the MISU General Manager and MISU Communications & Services Coordinator to prepare the election packs.
- Is continuing to help students with various academic appeals.
- MISU President is investigating ongoing parking issues and noted that park and ride could be in operation soon.
- Has been in contact with MIC Departments regarding the water fountains on campus. Is seeking an estimated time of arrival for the installation of the replacement fountains.
- Is investigating the Thurles Gaeilge Taught Fees and spoke to the Head of School of Education (Post-Primary) in MIC Thurles to see if there is some way in which this could be funded by the college.
- Is relooking at the senate issues and representation structures within MISU and intends to meet with staff from Maynooth University to discuss.
- Is actively investigating an issue with the ECCE tracksuits. Students paid €95 at the beginning of the year and have not received their tracksuits yet. Apparently, no order has even been placed for the items yet.

5. Executive Officer Updates

Postgraduate Officer

- Attended Arts Faculty Board meeting and the launch of the MIC Irish Language Review Report.
- Hosted a virtual coffee break for Postgrad students.
- Responded to student parking enquiries.
- Sent an email to Postgrad students promoting the MISU Referendum and also maned the referendum information table on voting day.
- Promoted Student Inc. Summer Programme to Postgrad students.
- Invited Postgrad students to join the Postgrad Society.
- Is actively working towards establishing a Peer Mentor Group for research Masters students.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

- Encouraged students to vote in the MISU Referendum and participated in giving class addresses about the referendum on voting day.
- Maned the referendum information table on voting day.
- Researched the #ItStopsNow Campaign to be held in Dublin on March 6th.

Student Activities Officer Limerick

- Encouraged students to vote in the MISU Referendum and maned the referendum information table on voting day.
- Attended the Teaching and Learning Directorate meeting alongside MISU President.
- Made contact with the MISU Clubs & Societies Coordinator in relation to upcoming student activities at the college.

An tOifigeach Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer)

- Participated in MISU Referendum voting day and encouraged students to vote.
- Was present at the launch of the MIC Irish Language Review Report.
- Attended a Traditional Media Workshop with Conradh na Gaeilge.
- Met with Emily-Anne Rennison from MIC Thurles to check on the progress with Gníomhaí Gaeilge.
- Attended a Bord na Gaeilge meeting to discuss the way forward for MISU in Irish promotion.
- Was invited to speak on an Irish radio show and attended Oiche Ghaelach on February 22nd.

Thurles Officer

- Promoted the MISU Referendum on the MIC Thurles Campus.
- Noted that there has been positive feedback from the opening of the new Students Lounge in MIC Thurles.
- Emphasised the need for a coffee machine, TV and microwave in the new lounge. MISU President has committed to speaking with the MIC Director of Estates & Sustainability regarding this request.
- Reminded the Executive Committee that 2nd year students would be returning to the MIC Thurles campus from February 27th.
- Met with Deirdre from the Thurles Drama Society (external to MIC) in relation to setting up a Student Drama Society and set-up a WhatsApp group where students could express their interest in joining the society. The society is due to start in September 2023.
- Expressed concerns over the lack of substance in Friday Research Method classes which focused on teaching students how to check for academic documents on the MIC library.

Welfare Officer

- Encouraged students to vote in the MISU Referendum and maned the referendum information table on voting day.
- Was present at the launch of the MIC Irish Language Review Report.
- Has made contact with the MISU Communications & Services Coordinator to plan a day of welfare events possibly held on March 23rd.
- Is still researching potential visitors who could come on the day.

6. Any Other Business

Elections

- An tOifigeach Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer) questioned whether it was possible to know the officers who would run in the MISU Elections.
- MISU President explained that the candidates can only be named after the close of nominations on March 8th.
- The MISU President also informed the Executive Committee that candidates will have the option of a paper or digital nomination form whilst hustings will be hybrid; held both online and in-person.

Referendum

- The MISU Referendum passed successfully with an overwhelming yes vote.
- MISU President thanked everyone for their participation in promoting the referendum.
- Quorum was met on all three motions by 4pm and with the passing of all three motions, a third Sabbatical Officership can now be established in MISU.

Gaeilge

- There is a need to display the opening hours of an Síopa in Irish.
- It is proposed that the Executive Officer titles be displayed in both Irish and English such as with email signatures.
- Changes such as these could set MISU up for an Irish Award.
- An tOifigeach Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer) is to look into residential schemes for the college and is also working on the Irish Language Strategy.
- MISU President advised that Union Council should first agree before a strategy can be created.

Sensory Room

- The EDI Officer expressed concerns over students using the Sensory Room even when a display sign says the room is 'Out of Order' or 'Not Working'.
- The EDI Officer called for a need to have the Sensory Room monitored in the interest of the beneficiaries.
- The MISU President has committee to following up this issue with the MIC Access & Disability Office.

New Students' Lounge Thurles – Internet issues

- The Thurles Officer lamented the horrible college internet connection in the new lounge. The Thurles Officer tabled the issue with Gerry but has not received a response.

MIC Facilities

- The lack of facilities, services, and staff at the college was noted. Although the college wants to increase enrolment, it has limited facilities, services and staff to support the increment.

3rd Year Placement Grading

- MISU President has advised that this issue should be kept amongst Executive Committee Officers only until APAC approval.
- There is also a need for more research and feedback from students before broadcasting.

Compost Waste Bins

- An tOifigeach Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer) suggested it would be good to introduce compost bins on the MIC campuses (like in other colleges) as a response to environmental sustainability projects.

7. Date & Time of Next Meeting

- Thursday, March 2nd at 6pm.