



Mary I Students' Union | Aontas na Mac Léinn
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 04 | 10 | 2023

Week: 04

Time: 1pm

Location: MS Teams

Present: President, VP Academic, VP Student Experience and Wellbeing, Thurles Officer, Irish Officer (Oifigeach Gaeilge), EDI Officer, Thurles Student Activities Officer

Apologies: None

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed everyone and called meeting to order at 1:03.

2. Unapproved Minutes

The Thurles Officer proposed the unapproved minutes from the last meeting and the VPSEW seconded.

3. Matters Arising

- i) Exec Reports Ahead of UGM – The President reminded exec members to submit reports by close of business in readiness for the first Union General Meeting scheduled for Thursday (05 October, 2023) at 1pm. Only one exec member and the three sabbatical officers had their reports ready at the time of the meeting.
- ii) Class Reps, Training & UC Updates – A total of 43 class reps have been elected: 29 in Limerick and 14 in Thurles. The second and final class rep training will be held in Week 5, an hour before Union Council. The VPA circulated a Doodle Poll to class reps to determine the day and time for the next Union Council meeting. Preliminary responses showed that most reps preferred Wednesday and Monday evening, but the VPA will communicate the findings after officially closing the poll on Thursday (05 October).
- iii) Period Product Refilling Schedule – The Coms & Services Co-ordinator is working on the schedule. However, period products in Thurles will be refilled once a week. The schedule will be shared with the executive committee once completed. Currently, the union is in charge of refilling period products in Thurles, while another support service is in charge of the Limerick campus. The VPSEW will follow up the availability of period products in male bathrooms on both campuses.
- iv) Canteen Updates – The President spoke to MasterChef management over canteen prices in Thurles. It emerged that prices of selected items are slightly cheaper in

Thurles than in Limerick. However, the price of coffee is generally expensive everywhere, not just in the canteen. The Thurles Officer disclosed that prices on the menu in the canteen are different from the actual price on the till. The menu would, for example, show that a sandwich costs €5, but students are billed €5.30 on the till. The quality of food is also another issue noted. Additionally, staff in the Thurles canteen do not attend to students on time. Students wait for as long as 20 minutes before anyone attends to them. The Thurles Student Activities Officer added that the menu in the canteen on Friday is sad – simply lacks variety. The President will continue following up these issues with MasterChef management.

- v) SharePoint Update – The President updated that all issues with the executive SharePoint site have been resolved and every exec member should have access to it. Except for the Thurles Officer, other exec members confirmed accessing the site without difficulties.
- vi) Mental Health Week – The VPSEW described the Mental Health Week (2 – 5 October) in Thurles as a great success. The sharing of Affirmations on Campus and the Mindful Colouring event went well. Take Me Out was already sold out. Zumba with Darren was only left with one or two spaces before selling out. Videos and interviews with students were shared on social media. The VPSEW announced Take Me Out will not be held in Limerick during Mental Health Week (9 – 13 October). The EDI Officer, however, advised that another activity should be organised to replace Take Me Out.
- vii) Summerville Lifts – It was noted that the lifts are now working properly and students will be informed about this development.
- viii) MISU Office Beeping Sound – There's a beeping sound outside the MISU Office each time some one walks by. Limerick-based officers agreed that the sound is annoying. The President will follow up this issue with Buildings and Estates.

4. Sabbatical Officer Reports

President

- Met with Parking Expert
- Prepared Sabbat Advisory Report
- Attended Research Grad School Meeting
- Chaired first Union Council
- Attended Finance & Resource Committee
- Attended An tUdaras Rialaithe
- Prepared for UGM
- Attended Graduation Meeting
- Attended Senior Management Team (SMT) meeting
- Completed Risk Register
- Attended Executive Committee
- Held meeting with Empathy

- Attended monthly MIC President meeting
- Attended Media Department Associates Meeting
- Gathered updates on Ceim
- Attended UL Academic Council
- Participated in Focus Group for Institutional Review
- Attended Education Faculty meeting

VP Academic

- Held class rep election in Thurles (Gaeilge & Business 2)
- Attended M.Ed in Education for Sustainability & Global Citizenship Course Board
- Elected more class reps
- Attended An tÚdarás Rialaithe
- Prepared UC agenda and circulated documentation
- Attended launch of Home Economics course in Thurles
- Sent deans request for permitting class reps to attend UC
- Attended Union Council
- Updated online class rep register
- Attended Certificate in Religious Studies Course Board
- Facilitated collection of parking stickers in Thurles
- Conducted class rep training
- E-mailed Education Assistant Dean over 3rd year time table issues
- Attended Arts Faculty Board
- Prepared Thurles class address schedule
- Attended Year 1 Class Rep Meeting with GM
- Re-set UGM dates (5 October; 16 November)
- Attended Exec Committee
- Drafted UC Minutes
- Circulated Doodle Poll to class reps on future UC meetings
- Attended MISU – RGS Engagement

VP Student Experience & Wellbeing

- Attended EDII event planning session
- Met with Paula over Mental Health Week
- Attended MISU – RGS Meeting
- Trained class reps in Thurles
- Attended Exec Committee Meeting
- Met with Deirdre over EDII Project Application
- Attended Wired 99.9FM Board Meeting
- Finalised plans for Thurles Mental Health Week

- Dealt with accommodation and timetable issues
- Attended Meeting over Therapy Dogs on Campus
- Met with AnneMaree over Wellbeing Portal
- Attended Union Council
- Participated in Student Focus Groups for Institutional Review
- Met with Finn as formal introduction
- Organised Arts Coffee Morning
- Held Coffee Morning for Student Parent Support
- Dealt with concerns over Summerville Lifts
- Handling Thurles Gaeltacht Fees
- Produced Social Media Videos for Elections and Thurles Mental Health Week
- Attended Executive Committee

5. Executive Officer Updates

EDI Officer

- Contacted SUAS over the Stand Festival
- Attended GOSHH Training
- Looped in with EDII to follow on previous communication
- Attended Executive Committee

Irish Language Officer

- **D'fhreastal an tOifigeach ar an *Tae 's Plé* seachtainiúil ar champas Luimnigh.** Attended Weekly Tea and Discussion on Limerick campus.
- **Fuair an tOifigeach eolas maidir le GG ó hEmily Anne Rennison.** Received information regarding GG from Emily Anne Rennison.
- **CCB an Chumainn Ghaelaigh Dhurlais.** Attended AGM of Thurles Irish Association
- **Fuair an tOifigeach sonraí teagmhála don mhac léinn atá ar socrúchán oibre sa Seomra Caidrimh i Luimneach.** Received contact details for the student who is on work placement in the Relationship Room in Limerick.
- **Táim ag dul go BÁC ar an Aoine le haghaidh Traenáil na gCumann.** Going to DAC on Friday for Association Training.
- **Cruinniú Bhord na Gaeilge inniu.** Attending Bord na Gaeilge meeting.
- **Traenáil na gCumann Gaelach *Áth Cliath* (6-8 Deireadh Fómhair).** Training of Dublin Irish Associations will take place between 6 and 8 October.
- **Comhrá '23 *Ar líne/ar champas* (9-10 Deireadh Fómhair).** There will be Chat '23 Online/on campus between October 9 and 10.
- **Oireachtas na Samhna *Cill Airne, Co. Chiarraí* (1-5 Samhain).** Oireachtas na Samhna Killarney, Co. Kerry is planned for 1-5 November.

- **Bhí an Trath na gCeist ar siúl aréir – 24 bhord.** The Quiz took place last night - 24 boards

Thurles Officer

- Attended Exec meeting
- Attended launch of Home Economics course
- Trained Class reps
- Attended Union council
- Held Drop in session with Finn over first year lecture
- Promoted Whack Vintage and Take Me Out on campus
- Gathered speakers for mental health week
- Promoted Mindful Colouring with Caitlin
- Attended to canteen and student lounge issues
- Dealing with parking barrier
- Facilitate collection of parking stickers

Thurles Student Activities Officer

- Organising Thurles Christmas Ball
- Promoted Take Me Out to students
- Attended Training for Ladies team
- Collected student feedback on the canteen
- Attended Executive Committee

6. General Business: Gaeltacht Fees

- Post-Primary Trainee Teachers in Thurles pay about €800 to attend the Gaeltacht
- This is mainly because attending the Gaeltacht is not a requirement by the Teaching Council as the courses in Thurles are Bachelor of Arts
- The need to do more research from other institution with similar courses was noted
- The exec needs to find out if the Teaching Council or MIC would have to waive Gaeltacht Fees for Thurles students
- Depending on the findings from the research, government or the college management will then be approached with a proposal to either waive or subsidize the fee
- Sabbatical officers will lead the research and contact other colleges to ensure uniformity in communication.

7. Any Other Business

a) Teaching Council Visit

The visit is scheduled for 23 October in Limerick and 24 October in Thurles. The council will speak to some students as part of the visit. It was agreed that the Education Faculty should not hand pick the students to allow for objectivity. The President will ensure there is transparency in choosing students to meet council officials. The need to discuss Gaeltacht Fees for Thurles students with the Teaching Council was noted.

b) Limerick Parking Ride

About 14 people have used the parking ride in Limerick so far. The pick-up time for the shuttle bus has been slightly adjusted from 30 to 15 minutes per hour.

c) Graduation Tickets

There is a likelihood of using hard-copy tickets for guests at this year's graduation ceremony. This emerged from the Graduation Working Group attended by the President. Previously, the tickets were soft copies ordered online from Eventbrite.

d) Thurles Student's Lounge

Students are requesting for a couch and bean bags in the Student's Lounge to make it more comfortable for them.

8. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11 October 2023 in MISU Meeting Room/MS Teams