



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

Date: 22 | 11 | 2023

Week: 11

Time: 1pm

Location: MS Teams

Present: President, VP Academic, VP Student Experience and Wellbeing, Irish Language Officer (Oifigeach Gaeilge), EDI Officer, Post Grad Officer

Apologies: Thurles Officer, Welfare Officer

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1pm. Apologies were noted.

2. Unapproved Minutes

The EDI Officer proposed the unapproved minutes from the last meeting and the Irish Language Officer seconded.

3. Matters Arising

Staff-Student Forums – The Education forum is scheduled for next Tuesday (28 November) in Limerick. Nothing has changed about it, since the last meeting. The VPA will now promote the forum schedule to students for them to prepare beforehand. For Thurles, the proposed date and time for the forum is Wednesday (29 November) at 4pm in MISU Boardroom. Finn could not make Tuesday (28 November) as earlier suggested. The VPA will update class reps in Thurles about this.

Limerick Spring Ball – the Comms and Services Department is planning to organise a ball in Limerick (similar to the Thurles Ball) next semester. The VPA was asked to gauge interest in the ball among class reps. Feedback from the reps is positive. Most Limerick students have expressed interest in attending the ball. The date and venue for this event is yet to be decided.

Draft Rep Structure Feedback – Exec members think the structure is good. The President will communicate next steps in subsequent meetings.

Park and Ride – Usage of this facility has been poor in the last couple of weeks. About 1 to 2 students use the park and ride during the week. Students instead prefer parking outside John Henry Newman campus. The President will meet with Building and Estates to chart a way forward, after fourth years return to college from placement. It was noted that if students do not use the park and ride facility, the college will stop offering it.

Pride Week – Students showed lack of interest in this week. Two events planned to commemorate the week were cancelled. The Pride & Pleasure Quiz was cancelled

due poor ticket sales, while the Pride Walk was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. The union is looking at redoing these events in Semester 2, after two students reached out. A committee will be formed to advise on holding such events on and off campus. MISU will also connect with other institutions to help matters. It was noted that the union should also find out what sort of events queer students want to boost attendance. The President and the EDI Officer will meet to talk about this later.

Upcoming Events –

- **PGO:** The Post Grad Officer is organising Lunch Time Presentations planned for February next semester. The officer is in touch with Julianne about the presentations and is just waiting for feedback.
- **EDI:** the EDI Officer has submitted an activity brief to show Christmas movies during the Christmas Week in Limerick.
- **Irish Language Officer:** The officer is looking at organising small events for students interested in Irish. This comes after the cancellation of the Rounders event.

The President urged all exec members to start putting forward ideas and activity briefs for Semester 2.

4. Sabbatical Officer Reports

President

- Represented the union at ACUI Conference in Boston
- Visited various colleges in Boston

VPSEW

- Preparing upcoming events: Christmas Week and 16 Days of Activism
- Dealing with bullying issues
- Attended UGM
- Took UGM minutes
- Participated in Drink and Drug Driving Working Group
- Attended Weekly Sabbat Catch Up
- Attended to Thurles Ball students' issues
- Researching on Gaeltacht Fees
- Attended Exec Committee
- Set up new furniture in Thurles Lounge
- Attended meeting over Name Change Policy
- Attended Autism Connect meeting
- Attended Safe Talk meeting

VPA

- Dealt with Autumn exam timetable issues
- Attended Academic Council

- Sent reminders for Arts Staff-Student Forum
- Attended Arts Staff-Student forum
- Updated class reps on exam timetables
- Attended PME Course Board
- Attended Arts Faculty Board
- Prepared minutes for UC
- Attended DEC Psyche Course Board
- Chaired UGM
- Attended UGM
- Gathered feedback on Limerick Spring Ball
- Attended VPA – EDI Officer drop in session
- Followed up on class rep clothing
- Attended CGLPD Class Rep meeting
- Attended to individual student cases
- Edited tUdaras Report
- Attended History HOD Feedback session
- Attended Academic Regulations Committee
- Attended Weekly Sabbath Catch Up
- Attended Exec Committee

5. Executive Officer Updates

EDI Officer

- Corresponded with a student about bullying
- Conferred with Sinead about Socs handbook on bullying
- Emailed and went to counselling about LGBTQI+ supports
- Attended Active Consent training
- Met with Edel and Sean over STAND Festival
- Attended Active Bystander training
- Met with VPA over bullying issues
- Met with VPSEW for updates
- Attended Exec Committee

Irish Language Officer

- Planning Irish events for Semester 2
- To attend Gaeilge meeting on 4 December
- Followed up Conradh na Gaeilge visit to Limerick
- Attended Exec Committee

Post Grad Officer

- Planning post grad events for Semester 2
- Contacted Julianne over Post Grad events
- Sorted out email address issue

- Attended Exec Committee

6. Any Other Business

a) Thurles Zumba Classes

The VPSEW has found an instructor to hold regular Zumba classes in Thurles. A class rep will be in charge of communicating with the instructor at a later stage. More information will be given about the trainer and the Zumba classes in further meetings.

b) Bullying

Bullying among fourth years in Limerick is becoming an issue of concern. It has been ongoing for the last couple of weeks. Some students are now coming forward to report verbal bullying, especially in clubs and societies. It was reported that one student is thinking of quitting college and a named society due to bullying. The need for the union to do something about this issue was noted. The union should produce awareness campaigns to tackle bullying on campus. Bullied students need to feel supported by the union, even before sign posting them to Counselling Services. Also, there appears to be no policy around bullying in clubs and socs. The President will table this issue with the Clubs and Socs Co-ordinator. Research into how other institutions handle bullying will commence.

c) Semester 1 Feedback

The President requested all exec members to email their feedback on Semester 1. A WhatsApp call for reflective notes will be made to update members who missed this committee meeting.

7. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 29 November 2023 at 1pm in MISU Meeting Room/MS Teams