



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

Date: 31 | 01 | 2024

Week: 1

Time: 1pm

Location: MS Teams

Present: President, VP Academic, EDI Officer, Thurles Officer, Thurles Student Activities Officer, Post Graduate Officer

Apologies: Irish Language Officer (Oifigeach Gaeilge), Welfare Officer

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:04pm. Apologies were noted.

2. Matters Arising

Approval of Election Date – The executive committee approved Thursday (7 March 2024) as date for holding MISU General Elections to appoint 3 Sabbatical Officers and 8 Executive Members for the 2024/25 Academic Year.

Approval of Returning Officer – The executive committee also approved Mark Noble as Returning Officer for the general elections. Mark, a teacher by profession, is a former executive committee member.

Vacant Sabbat Post – The VP Student Experience and Wellbeing stepped down in December 2023 for personal reasons, leaving the position vacant. This will, however, not affect the Thurles campus. The President and VP Academic will alternate on a weekly basis to work from the campus, and other officers in the union will join the weekly schedule. The union will, therefore, have presence in Thurles every week. It was noted that Mondays and Fridays are less busy in Thurles. The President asked the executive committee if there was need to hold by-elections to fill the vacant sabbatical position as stipulated in the constitution. Management in the union expressed concern over holding by-elections specifically for the VP SEW, owing to the up-coming general elections in March.

No By-Elections Approval – The executive committee unanimously agreed not to hold by-elections for the vacant position of VP Student Experience and Wellbeing.

Upcoming Semester Events - The President read through the online Semester 2 Planner, highlighting the main activities and events planned for the Spring Semester. Most events and activities were planned for the first weeks of the semester. The planner was left clear in mid-end semester to allow for addition of events and activities. Executive members were urged to submit their activities and events to the Comms and Services Co-ordinator as soon as possible. The President will circulate the online Semester 2 Planner for all executive members to include their plans.

3. Sabbatical Officer Reports

President

- Preparing for Charity Week
- Attended Quality Committee
- Attended Thurles Timetabling
- Finalised Semester 2 Plans
- Attended An Chomhairle Acaduil
- Attended Student Appeals and Issues
- Prepared Engagement Strategy
- Attended Arts Faculty Meeting
- Attended Equality Committee
- Participated in Drink & Drugs video shoot
- Attended AI Meeting on procedure guidelines
- Attended Finance & Resource Meeting

VP Academic

- Finalised Semester 2 plans
- Attended Sabbat Chat on Semester 2 plans
- Handled exam queries
- Attended Counselling Meeting
- Dealt with individual student cases
- Attended Sabbat Catch Up
- Contacted Education Faculty and PGO over coffee mornings
- Attended Athena Swan Subcommittee
- Sent MISU feedback on Gaelic Games club to Angie
- Attended Thurles Time-tabling Session
- Reviewed Academic Council documentation
- Presented MISU elections at Academic Council
- Attended An Chomhairle Acadúil Meeting

4. Executive Officer Updates

Post Grad Officer

- Planning Semester 2
- Met with Julianne to discuss post grad activities and events
- Confirmed 11 April as Research Day
- Contacted Kristin Horan over support for post grads

EDI Officer

- Planning Semester 2
- Organised MIC STAND Festival
- Recruited volunteers for the festival

Thurles Officer

- Planning Semester 2

- Handling exam and placement queries
- Gathering student feedback on Thurles Charity Week
- Discussed Semester 2 events with Eadaoin

Thurles Student Activities Officer

- Planning Semester 2
- Preparing ideas for Thurles Charity Week
- Gathering feedback on the week

5. Any Other Business

a) Thurles Charity Week

Collection of feedback on when the Thurles Charity Week will hold is underway. Some students want Week 6, while others want Week 4. Most of them want Charity Week held in the usual week. The President asked the Thurles Officer and the Thurles Student Activities Officer to send any feedback received from students.

b) Irrelevant E-mails

The President requested executive members to screen their emails to determine the ones students would consider irrelevant. This is part of advocating for students to receive only emails relevant to their academic programme and/or college life. After screening their emails, executive members are expected to feedback the President to kick start the advocacy.

c) Seachtain na Gaeilge (SnaG)

MISU will be organising this year's SnaG week, following an invitation from the college. The President, the current and the immediate former Irish Language Officers will be heavily involved in organising the Irish language festival. The MIC SnaG week will be held between 4 and 8 March, 2024.

d) STAND Festival

The festival will be held for the first time at MIC from 6 to 9 February, 2024. Information booths will be installed at the main campus in Limerick during the week. Installations will begin this Friday (2 February). About 10 volunteers will be needed to man the booths. In Thurles, the festival will be held on 7 March, 2024. The EDI Officer and the Thurles Officer will keep in touch over the Thurles edition.

6. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7 February 2024 at 11am in MISU Meeting Room/MS Teams