



Mary I Students' Union | Aontas na Mac Léinn
Union Council Minutes

Date: 07 | 02 | 2024 | Week: 02

Time: 6pm

Location: MISU Meeting Room/MS Teams

Present:

- **MISU Executive:** President; VPA; Thurles Officer; Welfare Officer
- **Limerick Reps:** PME 1 Group 2; B.Ed 1 Class 1A; B.Ed 1 Class 3A; B.Ed Psych 2; ECCE 2; CGLPD Rep 1; CGLPD Rep 2; B.Ed Psych 1 Group A; B.Ed 2 Class 7A; B.Ed 3 Class 6B; BA Psych 1.
- **Thurles Reps:** Business and Accounting 1; Maths and Gaeilge1; Gaeilge and Business 1; Business and Religion 1; Gaeilge and Maths 4.

Apologies:

- B.Ed 1 Class 7A Rep
 - B.Ed 2 Class 4A
 - B.Ed 3 Group 2B Rep
 - B.Ed International 1 Rep
 - BA CATS 2 Rep
 - BA Drama and Theatre 1 Rep
 - BA Geography 1 Rep
 - BA History 2 Rep
 - BA History 4 Rep
 - BA Music 1 Rep
 - BSc Psych 2 Rep
 - Business and Accounting 1 Rep
 - Business and Accounting 2 Rep
 - Business and Religion Rep
 - Cert. Adult and Further Edu Rep
 - ECCE 4 Rep
 - Gaeilge and Business 2 Rep
 - Gaeilge and Business 3 Rep
 - Gaeilge and Religion 4 Rep
 - Home Economics 1 Rep
 - Maths and Business 3 Rep
 - PME 1 Group 1 Rep
 - PME 2 Group 1 Rep
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1. Welcome and Apologies

The President, who stood in for the chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Apologies were noted.

2. Unapproved Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting were approved. Approval was proposed by 2nd Year B.Ed Psych rep and seconded by 2nd Year ECCE rep.

3. Matters Arising

a) MISU Elections Update: Vacant Officership

The position of Vice President Student Experience and Wellbeing is vacant, following the resignation of the previous officer in December 2023.

Ordinarily, a by-election would have been held to fill the position. However, due to time constraints and upcoming general elections, the SU management and the executive committee decided not to hold the by-election. The council was equally not opposed to this decision. March 7, 2024, was approved as the date for holding MISU general elections.

b) Election Regulations Approval

The regulations were unanimously approved by union council.

c) Returning Officer

The President informed council that Mark Noble was appointed Returning Officer for the upcoming MISU general elections. The officer's appointment was approved by the executive committee and all class reps present backed this decision.

d) Final Limerick Spring Ball Date

The ball was to be held on 13 March at the Strand Hotel in Limerick. The date and venue were chosen due to renovations taking place on other dates, the size of the hotel ballroom, and its favourable price in comparison to alternatives. Unfortunately, class reps could not approve the proposed date as it was unsuitable for various groups, namely PME 1 and ECCE students who would be on placement at the time. An attempt will be made to find a suitable time for them that matches up with the 2nd- 4th years who will not be on placement around that time.

e) Class Rep Clothing/Packs

The t-shirts are ready for collection from the MISU Information Desk on the Limerick campus. Their current status on the Thurles campus is unknown, but postage to home addresses has now become available. The VPA will follow this up with the Comms and Services Department. Class rep packs are also available for collection in Limerick. Those who did not collect them last semester were encouraged to do so.

f) Staff Student Forum Updates

The Staff-Student Forum for the Education Faculty in Limerick was scheduled

for 4 March. However, most class reps disapproved of this date, citing a clash with placement. The date would be unsuitable for various B.Ed groups, including 1st year B.Eds and 2nd year ECCE students, who will be on placement. The VPA will follow up this issue with the Education Faculty. Meanwhile, the Arts forums will be held on 20 March, while the Thurles forum will be on 12 March. These dates went unopposed at the council meeting.

4. Any Other Business

a. Thurles

- i. Thurles Charity Week – the week is scheduled for Week 5 (i.e. the week starting 26 February). Promotion of the week is yet to start soon after the Limerick Charity Week due to take place in Week 3 (from 12 – 14 February).
- ii. Graduation on Thurles Campus – Thurles students still hope to have their own graduation at their campus. The President noted and will follow up this issue.
- iii. Easter Ball: The Thurles Easter Ball is currently in the process of being organised. The Thurles Officer will give further details in subsequent meetings.
- iv. 4th Year Methodology Feedback: The students are unhappy with exam feedback in their methodology module, describing it as vague. It is hoped that the new appeals process, currently being established, will help in tackling this issue.
- v. Gaeltacht Fees – A lot of Thurles students are struggling to pay the over 800-euro Gaeltacht fee in the face of the high cost of living. The students are now wondering if there is a possibility for them to pay half the fee. The sabbats will follow up and explore this possibility.
- vi. Friday Lectures – 3rd Year Business and Irish students want their Friday Irish lectures put during the week to boost attendance. The VPA will look into this issue together with the 3rd Year Business and Irish class rep.

b. Limerick

- i. Accessibility Exit Doors – It was noted that accessibility exit doors near the SU and the security office in TARA building are faulty. It was also noted that the exit doors should be altered to help promote independence. The President will contact Building and Estates regarding this matter.
- ii. Placement Fee – Last semester's question regarding the placement fee for PME students was forwarded onto other PME reps who are unhappy with the fee. As a result, they have raised the issue again, and want a full breakdown of the fee. The sabbatical officers will look into this issue.
- iii. PME 1 Class Post-Placement – PME 1 students wondered if they'll be

writing a dissertation or practitioner-based research. They are also unsure as to whether or not they will be returning to class after placement. The VPA will find out on their behalf.

- iv. B.Ed Psych Exam Issue – B.Ed Psych students will have an exam during their placement. Due to time constraints (which have also forced their semester outline into a 10-week course from a 12-week course), the students are forced to return to Limerick for their exam while on placement. However, their exam cannot be changed as it is under the same module code as the BSc and BA psychology exam and their placement times are unable to be changed at the current moment.
- v. B.Ed 1 Gaelscoil Support – The lack of full support to 1st year B.Ed students going to gaelscoils was noted. There is need to introduce students to teaching in Gaelscoils, aside from just sending them to the Gaeltacht for 2 weeks.
- vi. 4th Year Placement Support – It was noted that the level of support the 4th years on placement receive is insufficient due to discrepancies in the level of assistance each mentor provides.
- vii. Irish Department Response Issues – A student in the Gaeltacht suffered a bereavement and was forced to wait 5 days for a response from the Irish Department. Class reps expressed displeasure at the speed of the response.

5. Date & Time of Next Meeting

To be confirmed, but possibly Monday (19 February) at 6pm.