



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

Date: 11 | 10 | 2023

Week: 05

Time: 6:05pm

Location: MISU Meeting Room/Student's Lounge/Teams

Present:

MISU Officers: MISU President, MISU VP Academic, MISU VP Student Experience and Wellbeing, MISU Welfare Officer, MISU Thurles Officer

Class Reps: Maths & Gaeilge 2 Rep, Business & Accounting 1 Rep, Maths & Gaeilge 1 Rep, Business & Religious Studies 1 Rep, Gaeilge & Business 1 Rep, Gaeilge & Religious Studies 1 Rep, Maths & Business 4 Rep, Gaeilge & Business Studies 4 Rep, Business & Accounting 2 Rep, Gaeilge & Business 2 Rep, Business & Religious Studies 2 Rep, PME 2 Rep, PME 1 Group 2 Rep, B. Ed 1st Year 6B Rep, B. Ed 3rd Year 5A Rep, B. Ed 3rd Year 6B Rep, BA 1 Music Rep, BSc Psyche 2nd Year Rep, B. Ed 3rd Year 2B Rep, BA 1 English Rep, BA 4 English Rep, MA Applied Linguistics Rep, BA Psyche 1 Rep, B. Ed 2nd Year 4A Rep.

Apologies: Gaeilge & Business 3 Rep, Home Economics & Business Studies 1 Rep.

In Attendance: Quality Director; Quality Manager

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## 1. Welcome and Apologies

The President and the UC Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

## 2. Institutional Review Student Focus Groups

- Class Reps were invited to participate in focus group discussions organized by the college's Quality Office.
- The focus groups would capture the student's voice in the college's review which occurs every after seven years
- Both undergraduate (3rd/4th years) and postgraduate (final taught and research) would take part in the focus group discussions and receive a 20 euro one for all voucher each
- The Quality Director gave the background of the review and stressed the importance of student participation in the process
- Class reps were urged to promote the focus group discussions to fellow

students

- PME 2 Rep noted that the proposed time for the discussions was clashing with their lecture timetable and suggested rescheduling to next Thursday from 10 – 11am.

### 3. Unapproved Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved, proposed by PME 2 Rep and seconded by Maths and Business 4 Rep.

### 4. Matters Arising

#### a) WhatsApp Consent Forms/Photos

The VP Academic (VPA) urged all of the remaining reps yet to send the WhatsApp consent form and photos to do so as soon as possible, so the group can be created, and class rep posters can be created.

#### b) Academic Integrity Week

The VPA requested class reps to record a 5-10 second video about what academic integrity means to them. Those who did so will be entered into a draw for a new hoodie. This was part of Academic Integrity Week, starting 16 October, 2023.

#### c) First Aid Course

The B.Ed 3 Rep inquired about having the first aid and LAMH courses for those who missed the courses in 2<sup>nd</sup> year. The VP Student Experience and Wellbeing will give an update after looking at suitable times.

### 5. Thurles Gaeltacht Fees

- Research into how other institutions cover the cost of the Gaeltacht is underway by the Sabbatical Officers.
- Maynooth students pay half the fee, while UCC and UL students pay the full amount.
- This research is inevitable in advocating for Thurles students, who also pay full Gaeltacht fees.

### 6. Council Sub-Committees

The subcommittees were elected as follows:

#### a) **Thurles Campus Class Rep Committee**

- **BA in Education, Business Studies and Religious Studies:** Business and Religious Studies 1 Rep – Proposed by Gaeilge and Business Studies 4 Rep and seconded by Maths and Business 4 Rep

- **BA in Education, Irish and Religious Studies:** Gaeilge and Religious Studies 1 Rep – Proposed by Gaeilge and Business 2 Rep and seconded by Gaeilge and Business Studies 4 Rep
- **BA in Home Economics and Business Studies** – Remains to be filled at the next UC Meeting.

b) **MISU Academic Committee**

- **BA CATS:** BA CATS 2 Rep – Proposed by PME 1 Group 2 Rep and seconded by Gaeilge and Business Studies 4 Rep
- **BA in Education Business Studies and Religious Studies:** Business and Religious Studies 4 Rep – Proposed by Gaeilge and Business 2 Rep and seconded by Business and Accounting 2 Rep
- **BA in Education, Irish and Religious Studies:** Gaeilge and Religious Studies 1 Rep – Proposed by Gaeilge and Business Studies 4 Rep and seconded by Maths and Business 4 Rep
- **BA in Home Economics and Business Studies** – Remains to be filled at the next UC Meeting

c) **MISU Postgraduate Committee**

- Three positions remain to be filled at the next UC Meeting

d) **MISU Student Engagement Committee**

- Gaeilge and Business Studies 4 Rep – Proposed by Maths and Business 4 Rep and seconded by Gaeilge and Business 2 Rep

7. **Any Other Business**

a. **Thurles**

- Zumba – Thurles reps have requested that Zumba classes be held regularly on campus. The VPSEW is working on this and will follow up with an update at the next UC meeting.
- Student's Lounge – The VPSEW is working with the General Manager and the Clubs and Socs Co-ordinator to procure extra furniture for the student's lounge in Thurles.
- GP Issue – the Thurles GP charged a female student for a contraception consultation and prescription. Since this service should be free, the student refused to pay the 10-euro charge. The VPSEW is following up this issue.
- Thurles Ball – The President and Thurles Officer informed Union Council that the two dates the union were looking at for the ball are November 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and asked Class Reps to gather feedback and

provide this to the officers by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

- v. Methodology Lectures – Thurles Officer informed Union Council that they were aware of the issues arising with Methodology Lectures in Thurles. They have spoken with Finn (Head of School) who they will work with to gather feedback on this issue and try to resolve it as soon as possible.

#### b. Limerick

- i. Pregnancy Test - The Union has set up a microsite for students to access free pregnancy tests. The site will guarantee privacy to students as the tests will be delivered to students. The President hopes to create an Instagram Post about the microsite tomorrow
- ii. PME 2 Assignment – PME 2 have an assignment for a performance where attendance for the first 4 weeks is mandatory or students fail the module. The module will be assessed fully by an assessment in Week 14 meaning no marks are going for the Week 4 piece. One of the PME 2 students missed a lecture for family reasons but still performed in the assignment and has now failed the module. This assessment was approved by the Assistant Dean of Education. The President noted that the student should contact the union. Meanwhile, the VPSEW was aware of the issue and had followed up on it and believes that nothing can be done, except contacting the Head of the Department. The PME 2 Rep recommended docking 10% for attendance in line with other modules. VPSEW will work on this issue and provide the class rep with an update as soon as possible.

#### 8. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting will be announced in coming days.