



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

Date: 23 | 10 | 2023

Week: 07

Time: 6:00pm

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

**Present:** MISU Pres, MISUVPA, MISUVPEW, BA4 History Rep, PME 2 Rep, BED Int. Year 2 Rep, BA1 Geography Rep, ECCE4 Rep, BED 2 Rep, BA1 Psychology Rep, BED 2 Rep, PME 1 Rep, PME 1 Rep, BSC 2 Rep, BED 2 2B, PSC 1 Rep, BA1 Rep, BA1 English Rep, BA2 Rep, BED1 Rep, BED1 Rep, MA Applied Linguistics Rep, 2nd Year Maths & Gaeilge, 2nd Year Gaeilge & Business, 1st Year Business & Accounting, MISU Welfare Officer, 1st Year Business & Religion, 1st Year Gaeilge & Business, 1st Year Maths & Gaeilge, 3rd Year Gaeilge & Business, 3rd Year Business & Accounting, 2nd Year Business & Accounting, 4th Year Maths & Business, MISU Thurles Officer.

**Apologies:** To be included.

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### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Unapproved Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting were not approved due to few sections that needed amendment. Updated minutes will be circulated and re-proposed at the next meeting.

### 3. Matters Arising

#### a) Gaeltacht Fees

The President updated the council on the Gaeltacht fees issue in Thurles. The Teaching Council of Ireland will be meeting with many students from Mary I tomorrow (Tuesday) and Gaeltacht fees will be on top of the agenda. Research by sabbatical officers shows that most students in other colleges and universities are paying their own fees. The President will set up a focus group to deal with this issue.

#### b) PME Issue from Week 5 UC

This issue has not been resolved. The VP Student Experience and Wellbeing followed up the issue with the Assistant Dean of Education and the Course Co-ordinator, but nothing could be done. PME students still wish to speak with coordinators as they are changing their expectations by Week 7.

c) Thurles GP Issue

This issue has been addressed. The VPSEW informed council that students can now get contraception appointments free of charge. If they are charged, they should report to MISU as soon as possible.

d) Online Lectures

Class reps were reminded that all lectures should be in person, according to the college's directive. The VP Academic advised reps to let MISU know if they have frequent request from lectures for online classes.

e) Thurles Student Lounge

A final order for furniture in the student's lounge in Thurles has been decided. The VPSEW noted that the order would be placed tomorrow (Tuesday).

f) First Aid Courses

It was suggested that the courses will be done during study week. The union is working on finding suitable time for students. The course would cost 50-60 euro for the full day and a class of at least 15 people is required. Class reps were also asked to inform their classes about the courses and report back to sabbatical officers with any interest. The VPSEW and the comms & services team will continue following this up.

g) Lámh Courses – the VPSEW is working with the comms & services team to arrange these courses for students.

#### 4. Remaining Sub-Committees

- **Post Grad Committee:** MA Applied Linguistics Rep – proposed by PME2 Rep and seconded by ECCE4 Rep.

#### 5. Class Rep Social Event

- There will be an evening social event for class reps in early November.
- The VPA asked class reps to suggest venues for the event.
- ECCE4 Rep suggested Level Up for Limerick and the VPSEW suggested Hickeys for Thurles.
- The VPA will give more details in coming days.

#### 6. Any other Business

##### a. Thurles

- i. Thurles Ball – confirmed for 14 November.
- ii. Christmas Daze – being planned, just waiting for the college to decide on their days. An evening event that will correlate with 12 Pubs will be held in Hickeys.

- iii. Christmas Market – Pop up shops are being organised for the market. The Thurles Officer asked anyone who knew different vendors to get in touch. Whack Vintage seller will be on campus for the market, but no food sellers will be allowed.
- iv. Thurles Zumba Classes – Darren Nash, the Zumba instructor who held a class in Thurles during Mental Health Week, is not available to take regular classes. Another instructor is being sought after.

#### b. Limerick

- i. PME Placement Issue – PME1 rep raised an issue. The PME1 class has placement on Friday of Week 10. However, students are yet to get information about the schools where they are being placed or who they are being placed with. They also do not know which class they are being placed with and feel they don't have enough time to plan for their class and assignments for other modules. PME1 Rep has gotten in touch with the placement office, and worries that, due to the graduation, the office might not respond. The rep hopes to hear from the placement office tomorrow or Wednesday. PME2 rep noted that they had the same problem last year and brought it to the head of department. PME1 rep observed that the placement office needs more staff to avoid such issues.
- ii. Placement Fee – PME2 Rep wondered where the 60-euro placement fee goes. It was noted that those who self-sourced placements in the past requested the 60-euro back.

#### c. Both Campuses

- i. LEAD Survey – Class reps were encouraged to promote the LEAD Survey among students. The VPA will share more information about the survey in the Class Rep Chatroom on WhatsApp.
- ii. Consent Forms - The VPA thanked everyone who sent consent forms and asked those who are not in the WhatsApp group to email him.
- iii. Teaching Council Visit – the VPSEW thanked both Limerick and Thurles class reps for engaging with the teaching council on their two-day visit of the college.
- iv. Pregnancy Test Link – the MISU Pregnancy test delivery service link is now live and students can access the service [here](#).

### 7. Election of New Chair

- BA1 English Rep was elected new UC chairperson, after previous Chairperson stepped down.
- The rep, who was council secretary, ran against MA Applied Linguistics in the election.

- This left the position of secretary vacant, but no rep volunteered for it during the meeting.
- Previous Chairperson remains BA2 Media Studies Rep.

**8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Wednesday (8 November, 2023) of Week 9 at 6pm.