

MINUTES:



CRC 5

Semester 2

Date: 12-02-2020

Venue: E201 (SPC) Time: 5:30pm

Exec Attendance: Katie Fay (VP for Engagement and Development), Christine Farrell (DCUSU President), Caoimhe O'Carroll (HSS Faculty Rep), Aisling Fagan (VP for Welfare and Equality), Hazel Byrne (DCUBS Faculty Rep), Olivia Forde (VP for Education and Placement) Mark McGee (Socs Officer), Sean Smyth (Education Faculty Rep), Cormac Flynn (CRC Chair), Sania Amjad (FSH Faculty Rep), Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (Irish Officer), Martin Clayton (First Year Rep), Josh Malone (Engineering and Computing Faculty Rep)

Apologies: Callaghan Commons (VP for Academic Affairs), David Martin (Clubs Officer),

1. Minutes and Matters Arising (2 minutes)

Matter Arising from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): Item 3(b) under "Items for Agreement", there is a typo. During the interaction between Caoimhe and Cody, "of discussions" is repeated.

The minutes for the previous Class Rep Council (CRC4, Semester 1) were put to a vote and accepted by the majority.

2. Officer reports (5 minutes)

Question from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): The officer reports for the VP for Education and Placement and the VP for Engagement and Development are not available.

Response from both Olivia (VP for Education and Placement) and Katie (VP for Engagement and Development): They will be submitted tomorrow.

A) President's update

Christine begins by addressing the earlier time of tonight's CRC. She says she often receives complaints and suggestions from different reps, some of whom are parents, mature students, part time students or post-grad students who cannot attend later CRC's. They are trying to make CRC more accessible by alternating the times of the meetings. She then informs everyone that within the next 4 weeks microwaves will be installed on all 3 campuses. There will be 2 in Java on SPC, 2 in Marmaduke's on All Hallows and 2 in the nursing building and 2 in The U on GLA. They are being installed on a trial basis and so she asks everyone to treat them with respect. She reminds people that the nominations for the SU closed today (12/02/2020) at 1pm. All applications are now being looked at and verified. She notes there are a number of positions for which no candidates have been put forward and so, nominations for these positions will reopen. As well as that, the USI and new constitution referendums will be rerun alongside the SU elections as they did not reach quorum the last time. She then informs CRC that it has come to light that in line with Trinity

and UCD, DCU intend to increase on campus accommodation rates by the maximum increase of 4%. She says the SU will not be standing for this. They will be putting out a statement and organising a protest.

Question from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): In relation the scheduling of CRC, going forward, will it be alternated between 5:30 and 6:30?

Response from Cormac (CRC Chair): CRC6 is scheduled for 5pm on GLA as they want to trial earlier CRC times on both campuses. CRC7 and CRC8 haven't been scheduled for that reason.

Question from Colm Roche (BCL1): Are the SU and DCU doing anything to help DCU students with accommodation?

Response from Christine: DCU claims to be lowest priced on-campus accommodation but it still isn't affordable. DCU are planning to add 1200 more beds in the next 4 years and she has asked to sit on the board for this project. She wants a voice on the board and will be taking a stance against rising costs. She believes the media will get traction from the issue and there will likely be protests across the country.

3. Pre - Nominated A.O.B (2 minutes)

- Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): The SU website

4. Items for Agreement (40 minutes)

A) CRC Scheduling – Eoin Crossen (10 minutes)

Eoin says he was supposed to be in a lecture at this time but had to miss it to present at CRC. He notes that this will be an issue at CRC6 also as it is at 5pm on GLA and it is not viable for many Pat's students to make it there at that time. He says that full time undergrad hours are generally 9-6 and meetings should not be inside this time frame. He says he understands the SU's efforts to accommodate part-time students, mature students etc. but adds that most students are under-grad and they need to be able to attend to have their voice heard.

Response from Christine: We could do everything to suit the majority, but we need to be aware not all students are timetabled from 9-6. Not all CRC's will be scheduled early but we need to rotate the times to try and include everyone such as postgrads, parents and commuters, not just undergrads.

Response from Eoin: Could we look at other ways of ensuring those voices are heard?

Point of Information from Cormac: The times of CRC's are selected by himself, Katie (VP for Engagement and Development) and Podge (Returning Officer). They are working on accessibility.

Question from Derek Walsh (BAJM1): If 6:30 doesn't suit someone, it's likely that 5:30 doesn't suit either as it's quite a narrow window. He is both a parent and a mature student and notes that neither 5:30 nor 6:30 suits him.

Response from Katie: Ideally, they would like to schedule CRC's earlier in the day, say around 2pm even if just for one CRC so that student who can never make any gets to attend one even if it means the student who always attends has to miss one.

Question from Derek: CRC5 and CRC6 are scheduled for the same day of the week meaning it's likely that the same people won't be able to make it.

Response from Christine: It's important to note that this motion would eliminate any possibility of having a CRC any earlier than 6:30pm.

Question from Colin Roche (BCL1): He works with his local county council and their solution to scheduling meetings is subgroups. Different faculties meet up in smaller groups before bigger meetings, so everyone is included.

Response from Christine: That is a good point but would not work in a university setting. With people working part-time and part-time students etc. there's never a time that suits everyone.

Question from Dean O'Reilly (BPY4): He understands the motion was written in good faith but asks the room if there is anyone who could only make it here because its at half 5 and not half 6?

In response, some people raise their hands.

Question from Tadhg Jenkins (BAJP2): Was there a consultation with the students in these demographics (part-time, post-grad, mature students etc.). Were they asked what time would suit them?

Response from Katie: There wasn't but that would be a good idea. She would be up for sending out a survey.

Proposal from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): Rory proposes a Procedural Motion 4(A)4 to postpone the motion until the end of the semester, CRC8, so we can measure how much the time changes have benefitted people.

The motion is then put to a vote. The motion is passed by majority.

B) Plastic-cup usage on campus – Katie Duffy (10 minutes)

Katie says her motion refers to the referendum passed in 2018 and the commitment made for 2020 in regard to single-use plastic. She recognises that Nubar is a separate entity to DCU so the best we can do is lobby them but in the past they have listened. She would like the SU to go into talks with Nubar about compostable cups and their waste management system. She also mentions the possibility of setting up a deposit cup system.

Question from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): The motion is very good in substance but the phrasing in the final paragraph puts the responsibility on Nubar. He thinks the SU should come up with solutions and propose them to Nubar.

Response from Katie Duffy: As Nubar is a separate entity, the final decision is theirs and they may want to come up with their own solution.

Point of Information from Cormac: When lobbying them we can propose a particular solution, but if we change the wording, it could limit the possible changes.

Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4) then proposes an amendment so that the motion will now read:

“Council mandates DCUSU Executive to research and price, safe green alternatives to the single use plastic cups used by Nubar. Council further mandates that the DCUSU executive lobby Nubar to adopt the use of one of these researched replacements in the place of their single use plastic cups.”

The proposed amendment is put to a vote. It is accepted by majority.

Question from Thomas Dorian: Can we also put in something about when non-DCU companies cater at open days etc?

Response from Cormac: That would have to be proposed as a separate motion

Response from Katie Fay (VP for Engagement and Development): She has been speaking to Nubar and they are looking for alternatives. At the moment they are not willing to change their cups as the alternatives are twice the price. This would increase the cost of a drink and students would complain. They cannot switch to glass as they won't be insured. She thanks Katie for bringing forward the motion.

Response from Katie Duffy: Even if we just looked at their waste management it could be an improvement.

Response from Katie Fay: Nubar have stopped giving out cups with a drink unless someone specifically asks for it.

The motion is then put to a vote. The motion is passed by majority.

C) Increasing engagement with CRC – Thomas Dorian (10 minutes)

Thomas says he used to be really involved in CRC's and the student movement but found once he stepped back from them, he didn't know what was going on at CRC and within the SU. He carried out research and surveyed over 200 students to ask if they knew about CRC or if they knew what happens at them. He found only 5% of people did, all of whom were class reps themselves. He thinks faculty reps could produce a condensed version of the minutes in understandable language that could be circulated throughout the student body via course group chats etc.

Response from Caoimhe Carroll (HSS Faculty Rep): Caoimhe is speaking on behalf of all the faculty reps. She feels it is a lot of pressure to put on people who voluntarily give their own time. She notes part-time reps are also undertaking degrees and it would put a lot of work on people who are already volunteering. However, she would like to suggest a solution. She says that DCUSU has really strong communication through social media etc. and she thinks an infographic of a bullet pointed summary could be created after CRC. It would contain information about what was said and

what motions were passed and if people did require more information, they could contact the secretary for the full minutes.

Question from Derek Walsh (BAJM1): Would it be possible to The College View to print an article about CRC?

Response from Brendan Kelly: He is a part of The College View and feels that is not the sort of content that they look to cover and publish.

Response from Colin Roche: He seconds Caoimhe's point that social media is a great source of info and that could promote CRC more on DCUSU socials.

Question from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): Seeing as the minutes are produced anyway, would it be an idea for the president to send a link to the minutes in their weekly presidential email?

Response from Christine: It is a great idea for an infographic to be shared across all platforms with a link to minutes.

Rory Williams Doyle then proposes an amendment that the motion read:
"Council mandates the SU president to include a link to the CRC minutes in their weekly email once approved by CRC"

Response from Christine: If we have to wait for the minutes to be approved, it could be a few weeks before students find out what happened at a particular CRC.

Response from Eoin Crossen: The spirit of the motion is to make CRC more accessible, but non-CRC minutes wouldn't find the minutes accessible.

Eoin then proposes an amendment that the motion include "a condensed version of the minutes will be produced"

This is accepted by Rory Williams Doyle.

Response from Adam Healy (PME1): We should remove "once accepted by CRC" as the spirit is ruined if we have to wait until they're approved.

Question from Derek Walsh (BAJM1): It should be mandated that a particular person in responsible for producing the condensed version.

Response from Christine: The SU president will be mandated to produce them.

Both of these amendments are voted on. Both pass by majority.

Response from Adam Healy (PME1): Adam commends Thomas for his hard work surveying 200 people. He says we could all work on engagement and carry on the spirit of Thomas' motion.

The motion is then put to a vote. The motion is passed by majority.

D) Inclusion of ISL students in CRC – Laura Marie Furlong (10 minutes)

Laura is a rep for BEd1 and wants to facilitate the students on the Irish Sign Language stream. For the first time ever, four ISL students are enrolled in Bed, giving ISL students the opportunity to be primary school teachers, which they couldn't do before this year. She acknowledges it is a big step for these students and any future ISL students. A lecturer, Anne Marie Farrell, had the ISL students discuss their personal experience in education which made Laura aware of huge gaps in what is being provided for them. Her and her course want them to be more included. She feels the first step would be to have an ISL student as a rep. This would offer a lot to CRC and would benefit the students themselves. Can factor in their needs by working with them and seeing what they want from university – furthering ISL training, having more signers at college events and lectures but first step in addressing priorities

Response from Christine: It would be unconstitutional for another election to be held but as the ISL students are on a different stream, it has a different course code and therefore they are entitled to their own reps. ISL interpreters were present at orientation and would be at CRC but as there were no ISL students as reps, they weren't needed. They will be brought in for CRC if an ISL student becomes a rep.

Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): PM4 motion not be put - PASSED

Point of Information from Christine: The SU will still be reaching out to ISL students to see if they are interested.

5. Items for Discussion (0 minutes)

N/A

6. Items for Information (5 minutes)

A) SLC's Accessibility Policy – Dean O'Reilly (5 mins)

Dean sits on the Society Life Committee which sits above societies and looks at things such as budgets and accounts. This year he is looking at improving accessibility within societies to accommodate disabilities both visible and invisible. He wanted to let people know as he wants the policy to be led by students with disabilities. He is hoping to introduce things such as requiring societies to list accessibility of their events, whether the venue is wheelchair accessible or whether earplugs are provided to help with sensory overload. They are already working with the access office but wants disability students involved as their voice should be heard. If anyone is interested in helping out, they should get in touch with him.

Response from Sean Smyth (Education Faculty Rep): Suggests that Dean could get in touch with the ISL students.

7. A.O.B (20 minutes)

- *Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4):* He says this is in reference to the AOB discussed at the last CRC. Schedule G is still not on the website nor are the minutes from CRC3 or CRC4

Response from Christine: She will look into this further.

Ellen Quinn (BRH2): She is stepping down from electoral committee as she is running for a faculty rep position.

Ellen's position will be filled at CRC6.

On that note, CRC5 Semester 2 was adjourned