



Minutes CRC 1 Semester 1

Date: 23-10-2019

Venue: SA101

Time: 6:30pm

Exec Attendance at CRC:

Christine Farrell (DCUSU President), Callaghan Commons (VP for Academic Affairs), Katie Fay (VP for Engagement and Development), Olivia Forde (VP for Education and Placement), Cormac Flynn (Chairperson CRC), Sean Smyth (IOE Rep), Sania Amjad (FSH Rep), Hazel Byrne (DCUBS Rep), Josh Malone (FEC Rep), David Martin (Clubs Officer), Mark McGee (Societies Officer).

Exec Apologies at CRC:

Aisling Fagan (VP for Welfare), Caoimhe O'Carroll (HSS Rep).

Before CRC began the Chair congratulated the reps on being elected. Noted the interest and engagement in SU (450 elected reps and many more who applied). Cormac then went through the class rep 101 power point and informed reps on their responsibilities and opportunities as a rep. He then ran through the format and procedure of Class Rep Council. Cormac opened the floor up to questions and answered accordingly.

1) Election of CRC Secretary (8 minutes)

Podge Sheehan then nominated Christine Farrell (*DCUSU President*) to stand in as returning officer, this was seconded by Callaghan Commons. Christine was deemed elected as interim returning officer.

Cormac opened the floor to nominations.

Nathan Kennedy (*BSSC/2*) nominated Sinéad Whelan (*BSSC/2*). It was seconded by Eoin Crossen (*BED2*): Sinéad was rep last year and loved it. She went to USI congress and wants to get involved more in the student movement and be a part of CRC.

Question from Jill Carrol (ECE2): Do you have good time management skills?

Response from Sinéad: Yes

Question from Dean O'Reilly: Can you type fast?

Sinéad: Yes

The position of secretary was put to a vote and Sinéad was deemed elected as CRC Secretary.

2) Minutes and Matters Arising (2 minutes)

The minutes for CRC4 of Semester 2 from the previous year were taken to a vote and accepted by the majority.

3) Officer reports (5 minutes)

Cormac opened the floor to questions, and none arose. The Officer Reports were put to a vote and accepted by majority.

(A) President's update:

Christine welcomed everyone and congratulated them on becoming class rep. She explained what was involved in a president's update. She then gave a brief synopsis of what the SU have been working on over Summer and up to now. This included: Training within DCUSU and with other unions, running orientation week across 3 campuses, campaigning for the Break the Barriers march, running the "We wish for Mehwish" and continuing the "Save Our Shepherd" campaigns, running the Clubs and Socs fair and the student sleep out.

She then addressed the previously mentioned issue of the absence of a Postgrad Officer. The SU are aware there is no Postgrad Officer but explain they can't arrange an election without an electoral committee.

There were no further questions.

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

- Sean Smyth (BED2): A message from the HSS rep
- Jimmy Barry Murphy: Schedule C on the SU Website
- Christine Farrell (DCUSU President): Election of First Year Rep
- Amy Donohue: Absence of Postgrad Officer
- Jill Carroll (ECE2): Water Containers
- Jamie Murtagh (BRE2): Microwave on St. Pats

5) Items for Agreement (1 hour)

(A) Schedule C Motion – Callaghan Commons (10 minutes)

Callaghan Commons (*VP for Academic Affairs*) reads the motion, which is as follows:

"Council notes that at the first Class Representative Council of the year that the elections for Schedule C, 'Officers of Class Representative Council', are due to take place.

Council also notes that in the past these Officer roles have become somewhat redundant due to duplication of these roles with SU Sabbatical and Part-Time Officer roles. As well as this, a Campus Life Working Group has not been in existence for many years in which they are to sit on.

Council further notes that at the final Class Representative Council of the academic year 2018/19 that a Constitutional Review Committee was elected to evaluate our current democratic and governance procedures.

Therefore, council mandates that Schedule C is removed from the constitution, that these Officers are not elected and for this schedule to be reviewed alongside the constitution."

Callaghan explains that he would like to review Schedule C as he believes CRC Officers often do not have enough work to do as a result of duplication of roles. He proposes that the Constitutional Review Committee should review Schedule C alongside the constitution and as a result, CRC Officers should not be elected.

Question from Eoin Crossen (BED2): I was an officer last year, what are you replacing them with?

Response from Callaghan: First Year Rep is not an officer, it is an executive position and is elected later tonight.

Question from Peter O'Neill (JR2): What are the arguments for keeping these officers?

Response from Cormac Flynn (CRC Chair): Has anyone got any arguments?
There are no arguments made.

Christine Farrell (DCUSU President): Explains she was an INTRA officer for 3 years and found her role was difficult as she did not know what she was to do. She believes we need to look at implementing a better system and is pushing for people to vote with Callaghan.

Question from Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3): If it passes, will the officers be replaced further down the line?

Response from Callaghan: Outlines he is not saying the officers don't have value, just there isn't enough work for them to do. He would like to strategically align the officers. Callaghan lists the current part-time officer positions and explains that many overlap.

Question from Michael Halpin: Should we consider reducing the number of officers and bring in other officers, for example an International Studies Officer?

Response from Callaghan: That's what I would hope to do. He also notes that at present, the Campus Life Working group does not exist.

Callaghan gives a formal summation.

The motion was put to a vote and passed by majority.

(B) Election of 8 Electoral Committee Members (15 minutes)

Christine Farrell (*DCUSU President*) explains the role of the electoral committee. She explains how they help returning officer, count in CRC votes and help in Springtime elections.

Cormac opened the floor to nominations.

Andrea Heaney (*PBM2*) nominated Amy Collins (*CA1*), seconded by Callaghan Commons: Amy would love the job as she wants to throw herself into the role. She is energetic and excited. She is very organised and was the Chairperson of her debs committee

Renee Mackey (*CS3*) nominated Aileen Conway, seconded by Callaghan Commons: Aileen wants to get involved. She is energetic, enthusiastic and loves organising.

JB Murtagh (*BRE2*) nominated Ellen Quinn, seconded by Callaghan Commons: Ellen is a second year in St Pats. It is her first year as a rep and she wants to throw herself in. She sometimes works with the helpdesk and wants to continue working with the SU.

Grace Kelly (*BRE4*) nominated Gavin Warren (*BRE4*), seconded by Callaghan Commons: Gavin is a fourth-year student in St Pats. He wants to be involved because he ran for Education Faculty Rep and wants to know more about how the elections work.

Satiya Trackas nominated Ananya Boreh, seconded by Callaghan Commons: It is Ananya's first time out of India and she wants to get involved to gain some international exposure. She is open to being involved in anything from all aspects of the college.

Grace Monaghan (BS1), Lauren Fitzgerald, seconded by Hazel Byrne (DCUBS Rep): Lauren feels she is a great support for those in elections as she knows it can be a difficult time. She is a good organiser.

David Somerville, BAH3, Liam Bradley, seconded by Callaghan Commons: It is his first year as a class rep and he is a teacher studying in St. Pats.

JB Murtagh (BRE2), nominated Michelle Lynch (BRM2), seconded by Callaghan Commons: Michelle is studying in St. Pats and wants to throw herself into SU. She is organised and outgoing.

Laura Furlong nominated Mariam Syed, seconded by Callaghan Commons: Mariam is studying Primary Teaching in St. Pats. Would like the role as she was chair of her Student Council in 6th year and learned a lot. She has good organisational skills but feels she still has a lot to learn.

Nabeen Madaree (BS1) nominated Niamh Cunningham (EPL4), seconded by Callaghan Commons: She is a final year EPL student. She is an events officer. Wants to get involved in SU because she hasn't up to now.

The positions were put to a vote.

Amy Collins, Aileen Conway, Ellen Quinn, Gavin Warren, Lauren Fitzgerald, Ananya Boreh, Liam Bradley and Mariam Syed were deemed elected.

(C) Election of CRC Officers (35 minutes)

As a result of the earlier decision to review Schedule C, the election of CRC officers is non-applicable.

6) Items for Discussion (5 minutes)

(A) Class Rep Leadership Development Day – Katie Fay (5 minutes)

Katie discusses the Leadership Development Day in Barretstown, on the 30th of October 2019. Barretstown are now a charity partner of DCU. The day is specifically aimed at first time reps but welcome to all. It will involve NStEP training, a proper introduction to the SU team and an introduction to the role of a class rep. It is filled on a first come, first served basis.

Question from Matthew Brennan (BAJH1): Where do I register?

Response from Katie Fay (VP for Engagement and Development): Podge sent out an email during the week (podge.sheehan@dcu.ie)

(7) Items for Information (10 minutes)

There are no items for information.

(8) A.O.B (20 minutes)

Sean Smyth (BED2) - A message from the HSS rep:

Sean spoke on behalf of Caoimhe Carroll (HSS Rep). She has been working to improve catering services across all campuses. She would like all class rep to mention the struggles facing commuters when attending respective programme boards. She would like to look at the possibility that lecturers could tailor lectures to accommodate commuters more.

Jimmy Barry Murphy - Schedule C on the SU Website:

Schedule C motion could not be found on the website.

Response from Christine Farrell (DCUSU President): The website was recently updated. Schedule C is available online but may be difficult to find. She will talk to those who manage the site and ask that schedules are more accessible. She will send a link to the schedule to all reps tomorrow.

Christine Farrell (DCUSU President)- Election of First Year Rep:

Christine notes that the current SU were not elected by any of this year's first year students, hence the need for a First Year Rep. She explains that it is a non-voting position, but the First Year Rep will still sit on exec and come to the meetings to be the voice of the first years.

Cormac opened the floor to nominations.

Amy Collins, nominated by Andrea Heaney, seconded by Callaghan Commons: Amy is very organised and outgoing. She likes talking and helping people. She takes on problems and tries to solve them and would solve problems as best she can.

Grace Mollaghan: Grace was secretary on her student council. She is organised, loves a debate and solving a problem with a solution that suits everyone.

Aaron Oyiki: Aaron wants an office. He will fight for the students and an office.

Jill Carroll (*ECE2*) nominated Mariam Syed: Mariam is in St. Pats studying primary teaching. She is fun and friendly.

Blaithín Adams: Blaithín is studying ECE. Believes she would be a good rep because she's understanding and approachable. She is loud and good at debating.

Martin Clayton: Michael is studying engineering. He was prefect in school and gained a lot of skills like listening to people and hearing their problems. He believes talking out loud can solve problems and believes he can speak for other people.

Azizat Alimi: Azizat would like to get to know people. She has good communication skills

Question from Thomas Dorian: What is the largest issue facing first years?

Response from Azia: Trying to settle in and getting used to a different system.

Response from Martin: Some courses don't have reading week and so there is no break until Christmas which is a huge change from secondary school.

Response from Blaithin: First years can be very split across campuses, she feels there should be more opportunity to get together.

Response from Mariam: Commuting or people missing home.

Response from Aaron: The lack of microwaves on campus.

Response from Grace: Settling in to a new learning style of taking your own notes.

Response from Amy: Finding a balance between work and getting to know people. Difficult to know how much work you should be doing.

The position of First Year Rep was put to a vote.

Martin Clayton was deemed elected.

Amy Donohue- Absence of Postgrad Officer:

Amy thinks a Postgrad Officer is needed as many postgrads haven't been in college in many years and can find it hard to settle in. There are postgrad facilities, but postgrads don't know about them

Response from Christine Farrell (DCUSU President): She understands it's a very different situation for postgrads and assures it will be done soon but in the meantime will work on communication with postgrads. It is unfortunate that the postgrad officer had to step down but will work on getting one into place.

Jill Carroll (ECE2) - Water Containers:

Jill would like support to move towards a more sustainable campus. She would like more water facilities available and she feels students are compelled by convenience. She wants guidance from council on how to proceed.

Response from Cormac Flynn (CRC Chair): He will support her in bringing a motion to the next council. There will also be help with motion writing at the Leadership Development Day.

Response from Christine Farrell (DCUSU President): She is always pushing for more fountains and hoping to improve, and she will also support a motion.

Jamie Murtagh (BRE2) - Microwave on St. Pats:

Jamie notes there used to be a microwave in the Irish room on Pats campus but not it's not there this year. He wants to know if it can be replaced.

Response from Christine Farrell (DCUSU President): She understands the lack of microwaves is huge issue as mentioned in her election campaign. She explains the previous microwave did not meet health and safety standards so was removed by the Irish officers. Replacing them is a long process due to health and safety, but she is working actively to implement them.

On that note, CRC1 Semester 1 was adjourned.