



**Minutes: CRC2, Semester 1**

**Date:** 11/11/2019

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Venue:** E218, SPC

**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), Aisling Fagan (VP for Welfare), Caoimhe O'Carroll (HSS Rep), Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (Irish Officer), Martin Clayton (First Year Rep)

**1) Minutes and Matters Arising (2 minutes)**

The minutes for the previous Class Rep Council (CRC1, Semester 1) were taken to a vote and accepted by the majority.

**2) Officer reports (5 minutes)**

Cormac Flynn (CRC Chair) explains to everyone that officer reports are available on the Google Drive and opens the floor to questions.

*Question from Laurence Cuffe (HDSCC):* How can I access the drive?

*Response from Cormac:* I have emailed you a link that will take you directly to the drive

*Point of Information from Thomas Garrigan (ME2):* You need permission to access the drive

*Response from Cormac:* Will have that issue sorted before next CRC, he notes that students have to use their DCU email or they will not be able to access the drive

The Officer Reports were put to a vote and accepted by majority.

**(A) President's update**

Christine discussed the Class Rep Development day in Barretstown Castle. She thanks Podge Sheehan, Katie Fay (VP for Engagement and Development and all who participated. She discusses the various Halloween events run by societies and by DCUSU. She informs everyone about the new St. Pat's working group. It consists of herself, Sean Smith, Caoimhe O'Carroll, Olivia Forde all sit on it with a board. They launched a campaign to reduce electricity with Richard Bruton. She discusses the graduations last week and congratulates the graduated sabbatical officers and postgrads. She then says the biggest thing the SU are working on at the minute is the We Wish for Mehwish. She is still facing deportation and the case has heightened. She informs council of the demonstration outside the Department of Justice at 12pm on the 12/11/2019. She notes the success of the Save our Sheperd demonstration and hopes this will have the same results. She encourages everyone to share news on the situation on social media and contact their TD's.

There were no further questions.

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

- Lucien Waugh Daly (CS3): Student involvement in the Trispace labour dispute

- Amy Donohue: Update on postgrad officer
- Chloe McDonnell (BRE3): First Aid Courses

#### **4) Items for Agreement (20 minutes)**

##### **(A) Equality for Children Motion – Dean O’Reilly (10 minutes)**

Dean O’Reilly (BPY4) explains the motion is about the Irish law surrounding children of same sex marriages. He explains when he is to get married and have kids only one of himself and his husband would be allowed on the birth cert and if that parent were to die, the other would have no legal rights. He explains how currently same sex parents cannot get passports for their children without an affidavit to state they are a single parent. He notes that guardianship is possible but only after living with the child for 2 years. Additionally, guardianship ends at 18 and would result in no legal connection with the child after they turn 18. He discusses how after the marriage referendum it was presumed there would be equal rights, but this has not been the case, and so the Equality for Children group was set up.

Dean asks that Exec support Equality for Children, offer them help, share relevant information on the issue and keep students up to date on the campaign as he feels many people are not even aware of the issue.

*Question from Derek Walsh (BAJM1):* Derek states that he is accepting of the rights of everyone but questions that the purpose of a birth certificate is to record the biological parents of a child

*Response from Dean:* Dean explains that that is not how birth certs necessarily function in this country. He explains that the women behind Equality for Children, Ranae and Audrey used the method of Reciprocal IVF, where one carried an egg and one carried the child, but only the birth mother is recorded on the birth cert. He notes there is other ways to provide children with their biology if requested.

Callaghan commends Dean for bringing forward such an important issue.

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

##### **(B) Updated Schedule E – Podge Sheehan (10 minutes)**

Podge explains that Schedule E contains rules and regulations for referenda and elections. He says the updated Schedule E is based on last years rules and has no major changes. He explains to those who weren’t present at CRC3, Sem 2 of last year that there was a report on Schedule E and that it was changed to focus on 5 core principles. Main changes concerned financial policy, social media policy and GDPR. He announces that the position of Postgrad Officer will be voted for next week with a shorter order of events considering the time frame. Polling days will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of December. Nominations for SU elections will open on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. Results will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. He notes there is a big change in that polling days will no longer be 3 days long to make it easier for candidates. Candidate wellbeing is of high importance and previous years have shown most votes are cast in the first 24 hours, so polling will now be 2 days long.

*Question from Dean O’Reilly (BPY4):* Is there anything in the updated schedule that looks at joint campaigns? He references the campaign ran by Callaghan Commons and Katie Faye last year and asks if we’re looking at equality for candidates, how fair are joint campaigns?

*Response from Podge Sheehan:* It has not been put in but can be suggested. He notes that it is very hard to regulate joint campaigns as some people just form an alliance with the same names on a poster and that difficulty to regulate is the reason it hasn’t been put in.

*Response from Dean:* Dean states that he has no issue with candidates endorsing each other suggests regulating joint campaign material.

*Point of Information from Cormac Flynn:* You can propose an amendment to say that joint campaigns aren't fair and should be regulated.

*Response from Dean:* He explains to council that he would be proposing that a single candidate cannot have more than one name on their election material. He uses the example that if 5 candidates run there can only be two joint campaigns and there is more material with the same names, which is not in the interest of equality.

*Question from Anne Mulligan:* If students run a joint campaign, do they receive twice the funding?

*Response from Podge Sheehan:* Anywhere your name appears is considered yours and all comes out of your fund.

*Response from Anne:* Do the two candidates have €200 or €400, do they join their funds?

*Response from Podge:* It's considered the same campaign fund

*Question from Bryan Mulry (INTB4):* He says that the topic could get messy and suggests that we pass the schedule as it is and change it with a motion at the next CRC to ensure it is carried out correctly and worded correctly.

*Response from Cormac:* He explains the decision is Dean's. We can call to postpone the motion but there has to be a vote.

*Response from Dean:* He agrees with Mulry and say it is a good point. He is happy to bring the issue to next CRC, take Schedule E as it is now and amend later

*Question from Lucien Waugh Daly:* Say his question is in relation to "attacks of a personal nature" and asks if using personal college resources, college roles and experience to promote themselves is a violation of this rule.

*Response from Podge Sheehan:* He explains that persona attacks are those that impact the character of a candidate and so candidates can freely use and discuss their experience

The updated Schedule E was put to a vote and accepted by majority.

## **5) Items for Discussion (20 minutes)**

### **(C) Constitution Review – Podge Sheehan (20 minutes)**

Callaghan Commons (VP for Academic Affairs) explains that the Constitution Review Committee was put together last year to review structures to ensure they best suit DCU as it is currently. The committee was elected at CRC4, Semester 2 of last year, met over summer and split into 3 subgroups to discuss perspective changes.

Procedural Motion **4(A)(4)** called by Dean O'Reilly that the motion be postponed to a later meeting/date.

*Explanation from Dean:* He says, as mentioned that there were 3 subgroups reviewing the constitution and subgroups were supposed to meet collectively to discuss their recommendations but did not. He feels it would save time at CRC if the committee can get together first to discuss as a group.

*Response from Callaghan Commons:* Acknowledges that the whole committee did not get to meet up and explains that this is just a discussion on the constitution and not a proposed

motion. He states there is a deadline and we need to discuss now so that we can call a referendum at CRC3 to ensure the changes are in place before this year's elections.

Procedural Motion 4(A)(4) was put to a vote and failed.

Callaghan continues and explains that his subcommittee involved himself, Dean O'Reilly and Thomas Carrigan. They looked at Articles 1-4, 6 and 8 which looks at exec membership and part time officers. He explains that a lot of thought has gone into the review. They examined other SU constitutions and listened to student's needs. They feel the current constitution is very restrictive and proposes a change in relation to exec and exec meetings. Currently the constitution states that exec must meet 10 times a semester, but this is not always necessary. They propose this is instead put it to a schedule and can then change annually as necessary. They also looked at the role of Part Time Officers. They propose we keep Faculty Reps, Irish Officer and the Clubs and Socs Officers but suggest that the First Year Rep is no longer a member of exec and instead just works alongside the SU. Callaghan thanked Dean and Thomas for their contribution and hard work.

Christine Farrell (DCUSU President) then discussed the work of her subgroup. She looked at Article 5 and 10-13 along with Helen Wade and Tadhg Jenkins. They reviewed a lot of grammar issues and areas of repetition and changed a lot of complicated language. They propose changes in relation to how to resign as a class rep and the wording around the role of returning officer. Additionally, they propose that the role of Returning Officer will now be selected via an interview process. In Articles 10-13 the propose changes to some financial issues. Christine thanked Helen and Tadhg for their contribution and hard work.

Podge Sheehan discussed proposed changes to Sabbatical Roles. He reiterated Callaghan's point on how much thought has been put into the process and how they really want to represent DCU students. He spoke to previous Sabbats, consulted with current team and stakeholders and SS&D. He found the constitution and current sabbat roles are not reflective of current student needs. There is role ambiguity, some roles have too much work and some are duplicated. He notes the large amount of case work for the VP for Welfare. He explains he tried to find titles and roles that work with what sabbats are up to today. The proposed roles and titles are as follows: **A. President:** No big changes, will sit on student finance committee board, **B. VP for Academic Life:** Would cover placement and intra, support and promote student employability and development, **C. VP for Wellbeing:** Promote wellness campaigns and he positive physical, mental, and sexual health of students, **D. VP for Diversity and Inclusion:** Would represent non-traditional students, campaign and create awareness for LGBT+ and ensure that SU is catering for all non-traditional students, **E. VP for Community and Citizenship,** will be the main representative for students regarding co-curricular and extracurricular activities and maintain links with local resident students and community partners. He suggests we create job descriptions that will show duties and responsibilities but do not include the in the constitution so that they can be updated on a yearly basis. He feels that looking at KPI's will lead to better accountability.

*Question from Eimear Fitzpatrick (PME2):* How will the positions be distributed between SPC and GLA?

*Response from Podge:* All sabbats will work across all campuses on different days. All campaigns will be run on all campuses.

*Question from Dean O'Reilly (BPY4):* He understands the rationale behind VP for Inclusion but wonders if it's better to combine the role of Wellbeing with Diversity and Inclusion. He gives an example if a lesbian student is being bullied, who should she go to for help?

*Response from Podge:* Students should be able to go to any sabbat and be pointed in the right direction. He discusses that currently the VP for Welfare and Equality takes on a large amount of heavy work and needs a split. An overload is dangerous for both officer and students and sabbats should never work in isolation.

*Response from Aisling Fagan (VP for Welfare and Equality):* Agrees with Dean, but as someone who has done the role feels the work load is ridiculous and things get dropped because there is so much in the role. She sees both positions working hand in hand and no matter who is there they will be able to help you.

*Response from Dean:* Acknowledges the Welfare and Equality officer work load but feels there will still be a cut back on the work load from other new positions. He is afraid many students would turn off from the VP for Diversity and Inclusion who don't come from diverse backgrounds. He feels they would never be in contact with a large group of students, combining them opens them up to all students

*Clarification from Cormac:* Explains we are not voting on the positions today but takes an indicative vote of what people are thinking. Indicative vote shows that majority want to keep the positions separate.

*Question from Bryan Mulry (INTB4):* Commends the committees hard work. He asks will job descriptions be finalised before this semester so next year's candidates know what their job entails. He notes that the position of VP for Education and Placement was in place so that the specific needs of teaching, nursing and INTRA students were represented. He asks who is going to look after those needs now?

*Response from Podge:* Often placement students go to VP for Academic Affairs. He also notes INTRA students don't come to SU when they're on placement, they often go through INTRA office or within their organisations

*Question from Hannah Leonard (MINT1):* She feels the term "inclusion" is contradictory and assumes people experience things differently. She asks if it would be possible to have 2 VP's for Welfare and Equality to avoid separating students.

*Response from Podge:* VP for D and I would champion for students from non-traditional backgrounds. He says 2 VP's for the same position would lead to competition as everyone wants to be the best, instead this opens up roles and allows them to still work together

*Question from student of PME2:* She says since the amalgamation SPC hasn't been the same. Since it has expanded and everything got moved the GLA, she feels they lost something in the process. Since losing the Pats President and Deputy there has been less support throughout the years

*Response from Christine Farrell:* She says she understands the point and is aware of it and really want to engage SPC students more. She says she will not comment on previous sabbats but this year there is always a minimum of 1 and usually 2 sabbats in SPC at all times. She says that she studied on GLA and cant fully understand needs of Pat's students so set up the SPC working group. She feels one specific sabbat for pats wouldn't be good enough as all 5 sabbats should be working for every single student.

*Question from Holly Kelly (BED2):* Without an Education and Placement officer, who can placement students go to now?

*Response from Podge:* The VP for Academic Life

*Question from Adam Healy (PME1):* He notes that it adds work to the current position of VP for Academic Affairs. He asks his question directly to Callaghan Commons. He commends him on doing a great job in the role but asks can the role take the additional responsibility?

*Response from Callaghan:* He says yes as he generally works with Olivia (VP for Education and Placement) and has often gotten questions about placement. He notes he looked at a lot of universities and none have a VP for Placement, only a VP for Academic Affairs.

Podge continues to discuss the changes surrounding elections and referenda. There is an update on polling stations as everyone votes on their phone. He suggests removing the stipulation on printing credit as we're pushing for sustainability, but says people can still advocate for it

*Question from Dean O'Reilly:* With the proposed changes to the returning officer role, he asks if interviewees will then be voted on or just chosen by the Office of Student Life?

*Response from Christine:* The selected candidate will be brought to CRC for approval after interviews.

*Question from Brian Mulry:* He notes that honorary membership removed and some people like to have that in. He adds that the wording on how to remove a class rep the wording is odd and notes the First Year Officer is gone.

*Response from Christine:* A schedule is being put in place for the removal of a Class Rep

*Response from Callaghan:* He notes that First Year Officer is not being removed but is just being relocated and will no longer sit on exec

*Question from Laurence Cuffe (HSDC):* He says that as a first year he feels someone who specifically looks at first year issues is very important.

*Response from Callaghan Commons:* He agrees it is a very valid position but not in an appropriate place

*Question from Sinead Whelan (CRC Secretary):* Which role will fulfil the duties of the current VP for Engagement and Development?

*Response from Katie Fay (VP for Engagement and Development):* The VP for Community and Citizenship as they have quite similar roles

*Question from Sinéad:* Who will look after student events?

*Response from Katie:* She acknowledges it is technically a part of her role but notes that events are really out together and run by all officers

Podge Sheehan formally thanks Thomas for his contribution

Callaghan thanks everyone for their help and their feedback on the discussion.

Cormac echoes this and congratulates everyone involved

## **6) Items for Information (0 minutes)**

N/A

**7) A.O.B (20 minutes)**

Lucien Waugh Daly (CS3) - Student involvement in Trispace labour dispute:

Lucien explains the staff of Trispace catering are in a dispute in the labour court surrounding wage increases and issues that are not the standard of working for the university. He is wondering what the SU involvement is on the issue.

*Response from Christine Farrell:* She says it hasn't been brought to her attention and therefore they haven't done anything, but she would be open to conversation about it

Amy Donohue (MCC) - Update on Postgrad Officer:

Amy's question had been answered by Podge Sheehan earlier on during the discussion about Schedule E.

Chloe McNamara (ECE3) - First Aid Courses

Explains ECE students are required to have first aid training but is not organised. She went to the course chair, but they say it has to be arranged by the SU and she would like to liaise with them to organise it

*Response from Seán Smyth (Education Faculty Rep):* He will work with Chloe on this.

***On that note, CRC2 Semester 1 was adjourned***