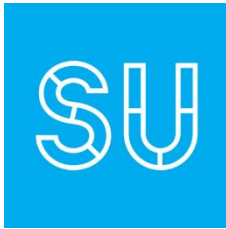


## MINUTES:



**CRC 4**

**Semester 1**

Date: 10-12-2019

Venue: SA101 (GLA) Time: 6:30pm

**Exec Attendance:** Christine Farrell (DCUSU President), Cormac Flynn (CRC Chair), Olivia Forde (VP for Education and Placement), Katie Fay (VP for Engagement and Development), Callaghan Commons (VP for Academic Affairs), Aisling Fagan (VP for Welfare and Equality), Caoimhe O'Carroll (H&SS Faculty Rep), SORCHA NÍ CHONGHAILE (Irish Officer), Seán Smyth (Education Faculty Rep), Josh Malone (Engineering and Computing Faculty Rep), Martin Clayton (Firs Year Rep)

**Apologies:** David Martin (Clubs Officer), Hazel Byrne (DCUBS Faculty Rep), Sania Amjad (FSH Faculty Rep), Mark McGee (Socs Officer)

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

The minutes for the pervious Class Rep Council (CRC3, Semester 1) were taken to a vote and accepted by the majority

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

There are no questions on the officer reports.

A) Callaghan Commons (VP for Academic Affairs)

Callaghan is giving an oral report as his laptop was not working. He attended Pink Training in Galway, along with Aisling Fagan (VP for Welfare and Equality) and 24 DCU delegates. He thanked the LGBT society for their work. He has been working on organising a careers week for Semester 2. It is scaled back from last year, with fewer events but more engagement. He ran a science faculty student/staff forum. He ran the "Recharge" campaign with USI. He was campaigning for the new constitution referendum. He talks about the new Student Partnership Framework which aims to look at areas of partnership with students and staff in Semester 2. He informs CRC about the USI demonstration for Break the Barriers happening on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December at 10am. He will be attending the USI National Council in Sligo this weekend. He is working on a student staff partnership programme and is looking to form a student review panel. Details of this have been posted in the class rep Facebook group. He has been working on a learning enhancement project with Katie (VP for Engagement and Development).

B) Presidents Update

Christine was not at Pink Training herself but congratulates all who attended. She speaks about the Student/Staff Forums and says they are a good opportunity to improve the college experience. She gives an update that Sheperd's deportation order has been extended again. She congratulates the new DCU President, Daire Keogh. Daire will start his term on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. She also congratulates our newly elected Postgrad Officer, Amy Donohue. She talks about the Christmas Ball

happening tomorrow as well as the daytime activities. She reminds everyone that voting opens tomorrow, 11/12/2019 and encourages everyone to use their vote.

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

- Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3) – SU Website

**3. Items for Agreement (30 minutes)**

A) Schedule G – Podge Sheehan (10 minutes)

Podge explains that Schedule G is updated annually. It is the sabbatical agreement and acts sort of like a contract. It is usually presented in Semester 2 but they are presenting it now in advance of the election campaigns so all potential candidates can be familiar with it. In point 1.4/1.5 referring to annual leave and CRC, they are standard but it's good to have it in writing. The hours of work have changed. It was previously 35 hours a week but after some research it was found that sabbats cannot fully perform their duties in 35 hours, so the working week is being increased to 37.5 hours (excluding a minimum of a 30-minute lunch break). Sabbats have the option to participate in a flexiweek policy, but they must be in office between 10-4, Monday to Thursday and 10-3 on a Friday. It is understood that some days sabbats may have to be in early or stay late, but overtime is not paid, instead they are given time-in-lieu. There is no overtime compensation if a sabbat works overtime at a personal discretion. They are entitled to a standard 21-day holidays. Renumeration will be changing. They surveyed other SU's around the country and in the UK and the majority have renumeration just shy of €24,000 in Ireland or \$23,500 in the UK. They are proposing that we move sabbats to the living wage. Setting it as the "living wage" instead of a fixed figure allows for changes in the economy. The change will work out at an increase of around €7000-€8000. There is no probation period as they are elected members, however they are expected to report to members and will be subject to scrutiny. Point 8.3 outlines the distinctions between where sabbats are university employees and where they are university reps. They must follow the code of conduct and behaviour. They must be accountable for their whereabouts during office hours and may be subject to a formal performance review. Point 8.10 outlines how a sabbat cannot use their position, title or any SU propaganda for personal gain. They must not take on any additional fulltime work or academic study that may interfere with their role. Point 9 covers attendance. Point 10 discusses benefit-in-kind. Sabbats receive leap card top ups and their phone bills are paid but these may be revoked if they are found to be taking advantage. The regulations for grievances and disputes are outlined in the OSL Grievances Policy. Any DCUSU property or documentation used by a sabbat must be returned and be in good order.

*Question from Tadhg Jenkins (BAJP2):* The OSL budget and the expected expenditure are different figures. What accounts for the missing portion?

*Response from Podge:* It does not account for the cost of employment such as insurance or employer's PRSI.

*Schedule G was put to a vote and accepted by majority.*

B) NoBeef Motion – Caoimhe O'Carroll (10 minutes)

Caoimhe introduces herself as the Humanities and Social Sciences Rep. She explains the motion is in relation to cutting beef off all 3 DCU campuses. She explains that the motion was originally brought up in exec by Cormac (*CRC Chair*)

but as he cannot speak at CRC, Caoimhe has volunteered to bring it up for him. She shows a short video which explains some of their reasons and to give a brief idea on the impact the beef industry has. She explains that the movement has been trialled in Cambridge University where they have done a lot of research. If this were to pass, DCU would be the first organisation in Ireland to do so. She outlines 4 reasons for the motion. 1. Beef is one of the most expensive meats to buy so Trispace will save money buy not having to buy it. 2. It is an easy change to make that will have a big impact. 3. Beef is high in cholesterol, so it is a healthier option. 4. It will help combat climate change. Referring to Cambridge, she says they had a 3% profit increase and a 9% increase in sales. According to Cambridge staff, there is a demand for meat alternatives. After replacing beef with plant-based alternatives, Cambridge measured a 10.5% decrease in their carbon footprint across the three years following the change as well as a 28% reduction in land use per kg of their food. With over 7000 transactions a day, they did not receive any complaints that beef wasn't available. She emphasises the point that reducing rare meat handling in the kitchen reduces health and safety risks. Referring to the climate change point she discusses the issue of deforestation so that animals have land to graze and the pollution created from the farming industry is equal to that of the transport industry, with over half coming from beef production alone. In conclusion she reiterates the point that DCU is working towards being a sustainable campus and we should consider the impact beef production has on climate change.

*Question from Cody Saunders (SSH4):* Has it been discussed with Trispace, what would beef be replaced with?

*Response from Caoimhe:* If the motion passes, it would be a place of discussion of discussion and would be about cooperation She cannot be 100% sure until after a discussion with Trispace has taken place.

*Question from Dianne Lagman (BNID2):* What about people who are allergic to chicken? Will there be other options?

*Response from Caoimhe:* There will still be other meats available and students will still be able to bring their own food containing beef to campus. This motion involves taking a step back and stopping the demand.

*Question from Derek Walsh (BAJM1):* Can we amend the motion to say it reduces greenhouse gases? It is notable that there aren't always vegan options on menu.

*The proposed amendment, to add "or plant-based alternatives" and "can reduce greenhouses gases" where relevant, are put to a vote. They are accepted by majority.*

*Question from Lauren Moore:* Will the alternatives be sold at the same price or will it work out cheaper?

*Response from Caoimhe:* She cannot officially comment until they discuss with Trispace. Prices will be in line with current plant-based meals in Trispace.

*Question from Brian Mulry (INTB4):* He was originally against the motion but is now in favour of the spirit of it. He asks if we have the power to change anything? If we don't, should we pass the motion?

*Response from Christine Farrell (DCUSU President):* The motion will mandate DCUSU to lobby Trispace but there is no guarantee they will agree. As DCU does not own Trispace we cannot make them do it. It will be a long process of negotiations.

*Response from Caoimhe:* It is not guarantee and will be long process, but all students agreeing sends a good message that we don't support pollution and reflects student's feelings at the minute

*Question from Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3):* Does Trispace control Londis and Nubar?

*Response from Christine:* They control Londis but not Nubar.

*Question from Amy Collins (CA1):* Will there be a campaign to tell students why we're doing it? It would avoid confusion and allow the student body to understand why we're doing it.

*Response from Caoimhe:* Yes, we can share the video and stats to put it in perspective and help students understand better.

*Question from Charlie Kinsella (AF2):* Why would CRC lobby this but condone farming practices such as battery chickens and piggeries

*Point of Information from Cormac:* DCUSU do not condone these practices.

*Response from Caoimhe:* It's a small change for a big impact. She explains that cutting out beef would have a much wider impact than cutting out chicken. It's a small step in the right direction.

*Question from Claire McNamara (BECE1):* Anaemia is becoming the biggest deficiency in Ireland. Taking this into consideration, should we cut out beef? Is there bigger knock on impacts?

*Response from Caoimhe:* This can be discussed with Trispace. She says there are other sources of iron and reminds everyone we are not looking to ban beef from campus all together, just stop it from being sold on campus. Students can still bring their own meals containing beef.

*The "NoBeef" Motion is then put to a vote. It passes by majority.*

C) USI Council – Tadhg Jenkins (10 minutes)

Podge Sheehan speaks on this motion first. He explains that Schedule E in which was voted on in CRC2 Semester 1 was designed with fairness and equality in mind and so all candidates would be treated equally. It also states that only DCU students can participate in DCU election and referenda. He says he appreciates the spirit of the motion but whether it passes or fails, Schedule E still stands and if the motion passes, it's in breach of Sched E. Because Schedule E has already passed, the rules have to be adhered to. He reiterates he has to do his job as returning officer and that it can be very difficult to change rules during campaign time. He says again that even if it passes, only DCU students can campaign.

*Response from Tadhg Jenkins (BAJP2):* Tadhg says he has thought about the issue outlined by Podge but he outlines that when Schedule E was passed in CRC2 it was said that it was possible to accept Schedule E and change it later.

Tadhg then proposes an amendment so that the motion will now read:

*“Council therefore requests, subject to the approval of the ERC & members present, that the USI be allowed on campus this week to allow students to ask them questions and to gain clarity on their role.”*

*Response from Podge:* Changing Schedule E at a later date was not precedent, but a suggestion. He says as voting starts tomorrow, he does not want to change around rules during a campaign. He notes there is also a “No” campaign registered. He doesn’t want to open floodgates to allowing people on campus.

*Question from Thomas Carrigan (ME2):* He asks why this motion is needed? He says he has seen the Yes campaign but not the No campaign. He feels this might set a dangerous precedent.

*Response from Tadhg:* He notes he is part of the Yes campaign but highlights he is here as a rep. He outlines how we choose USI as our national representatives every 3 years but notes they’re not allowed talk to us when he feels its most important. He feels we should have as many resources for students as possible. He understands the spirit of the original clause is no outside actors but says USI representatives would not be on campus on behalf of any campaign but as information sources for students.

*Question from Derek Walsh:* He feels it is not possible to do this in the middle of a campaign and suggests that we do not implement the motion for this particular referendum.

*Response from Tadhg:* He acknowledges Derek’s point and says he is open to a conversation on the matter.

*Point of Information from Cormac:* If that were to happen it would not be an amendment to this motion but would instead be moved forward by Procedural Motion 4A (4). It could be discussed later ahead of spring elections.

*The previously proposed amendment put forward by Tadhg is put to a vote. It is accepted by majority.*

*Question from Brian Mulry (INTB4):* He states the amendment still doesn’t get around the issue of Schedule E. He agrees students should get as much info as they can but asks how this amendment gets around the problem with Schedule E.

*Response from Tadhg:* Schedules aren’t in the constitution, they are adjacent and so it wouldn’t be constitutional. We can adjust later who counts as an outside body.

*Response from Podge:* If we change Schedule E we will have to bring it back to CRC and vote on it again which will not happen before Friday (13/12/2019). He says if students want more info, he proposes we put out impartial unbiased info on what USI do.

*Response from Tadhg:* He emphasises he is not trying to work against anyone and that we’re all here because we care about students. He doesn’t mind if the motion does not come into effect for this campaign.

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

**4. Items for Information (10 minutes)**

A) USI Update – Craig McHugh

Craig is here to provide an update on the work USI have been doing. He discusses their 2020 campaign for gender equality in sport. They've been working with An Garda Síochána to work on student safety in different colleges around the country. He encourages people to pick up a booklet on campus or view it online. He discusses the "De-stress" campaign surrounding easing exam stress and pressure. It is mainly an online campaign. He reminds students to take regular study breaks, stay refreshed, de-stress and recharge. He mentions College Awareness Week and encourages students to be engaged. He also shares that USI have partnered with the HSE to make condoms and sexual health facilities free for 3<sup>rd</sup> level students. He reiterates they are calling on the government to make STI checks free for students. USI have launched a mental health text line which is free for USI members. They celebrated international men's day in IT Sligo. They are also lobbying the government to introduce hate speech legislation. He encourages students who are passionate about this to get in touch with them so they can be included in the submission. USI have been following and supporting the "We Wish for Mehwish" campaign. He says the recent developments are positive but emphasises that Direct Provision still exists, and this shouldn't be an issue faced by students. He attended his first Pink Training which he says is great for members of the LGBT+ community and allies alike. He discusses the recent amendments to the gender recognition act and agrees they are positive changes but still have far to go. USI have partnered with SIPTU to make a charter for postgrad student's rights. They are also recruiting an "eco-ambassador" to help with sustainability campaigns. There is a students with disabilities seminar on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and they would like to have people from all sides of life involved

B) Update on Business School chairs (2 minutes)

Cormac gives an update that Estates have vowed to have all chairs fixed by Semester 2. He congratulates Hazel and all involved in campaigning. Information on the updates will be sent out with the minutes for CRC4.

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

Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3) – SU Website

Jimmy says only schedule A, D and E are available on the SU website still.

*Response from Christine:* Schedule G will go up now that it's been approved. Schedule B and F have not been put up due to a formatting issue, but this is being worked on. As far as she is aware, Schedule H doesn't exist.

*Question from Jimmy:* Is Schedule H where Class Rep duties are listed?

*Response from Bryan Mulry (INTB4):* He thinks that all previous motions passed by CRC can be found in Schedule H.

***On that note, CRC4 Semester 1 was adjourned***