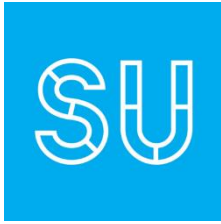


MINUTES:



CRC 6 Semester 2

Date: 26-02-2020

Venue: The Solas Room (GLA)

Time: 3:00pm

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), Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (Irish Officer),

Exec Apologies at CRC:

Martin Clayton (First Year Rep), Caoimhe O'Carroll (HSS Rep), Mark McGee (Societies Officer).

As Cormac is running for election, he cannot chair CRC. A temporary chair must be elected in his place.

Tadhg Jenkins is nominated by Lucien Waugh Daly (CS3) This is seconded by Emilio Williams Doran (CAMI4)

Eoin Crossen is nominated by Kate Goodman (AMPS3). This is seconded by Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4)

Tadhg Jenkins concedes. Eoin Crossen is elected as temporary CRC chair.

1. Minutes and Matters Arising (2 minutes)

The minutes from the previous CRC (CRC5, Semester 2) are put to a vote. They are accepted by majority.

2. Officer reports (5 minutes)

Question from Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3): Why is there a lack of officer reports?

Response from Christine Farrell (DCUSU President): Officer Reports were only asked for the previous day. The rest will be uploaded within the next 24-48 hours.

A) President's update:

Christine explains that the previous CRC was only 2 weeks ago and since then she's been on annual leave and so her update is short than usual. She says that the rent increase for on campus accommodation is still their big issue. There was a protest held on Monday and it was great to have support. They are still working with USI as this is a national issue it is not just affecting DCU. They have been talking to the government and the IUA and will be talking to Brian MacCraith (DCU President) in the coming days. They plan to draft an email that all students can send complaining about the increases. She discusses the recent destruction of the consent display on campus. She says it is annoying and frustrating that it was torn note but notes the positivity of the amount of people who have come out in support. The display is now back and better than ever. The rock the boat world record attempt had to be cancelled due to weather conditions but will be rescheduled for a later date. She

mentions the ongoing election campaigns and says hustings will take place next Monday on the St.Pats Campus and Tuesday on Glasnevin. Voting opens next Wednesday and she encourages everyone to vote and to encourage their classes to get involved in voting.

Question from Tadhg Jenkins (BAJP2): In relation to the rent increase protests, as well as working with USI, have you been in contact with other SU presidents?

Response from Christine Farrell: On-campus accommodation is not an issue that applies to most IT's. UCD and UL are the only universities not in USI, but she has been talking to their SU's.

Response from Callaghan Commons (VP for Academic Affairs): He sits on a USI sub-committee and they will also be meeting to discuss the issue.

Question from Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3): Have the minutes from CRC3 and CRC4 and Schedule G been added to the SU website?

Response from Christine: They should be up now.

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

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

- Lucien Waugh Daly (CS3) - Election of Clubs Officer and Socs Officer
- Tadhg Jenkins (BAJP2), on behalf of Dean O'Reilly (BPY4) - Improving the accessibility of emails
- Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4) – No minutes in the president's email and the election of a new ERC member.

4. Items for Agreement (20 minutes)

A) Christmas Exam Scheduling – Lucien Waugh Daly (10 minutes)

Since Lucien was in first year in 2017, he has heard that the DCU Christmas exams are being moved to before Christmas, but this hasn't been mentioned in a while. He notes this will not be implemented by Christmas 2020. While he is sure there is work being done behind the scenes, he would like it to be mandated so that next year it can be pushed through. He feels this is the ideal time for a timetable change, following the election of a new president of DCU, Daire Keogh. Having exams before Christmas is better for wellbeing as it allows for students to have a break. He reiterates that he knows this is on track to happen eventually but wants to help push it through. He notes that the restructuring of the Semester 1 timetable could benefit students on courses who do not currently have a reading week, such as those in the Science and Health Faculty.

Response from Callaghan Commons (VP for Academic Affairs): This change has been in line for a while, discussions first started when he was in final year and changes were meant to be implemented for 2019/2020 but were paused as a result of the Rebecca Carter case. Rebecca Carter was a post leaving cert student who sought a high court injunction after she missed out on a place in UCD Veterinary. This case caused a freeze on any possible change. However, as of the 4th of February 2020, there is a council in place to implement the timetable change for the time frame Lucien has outlined, 2021/2022.

An amendment is proposed that the motion include the “School of Engineering and Computing” as well as the “School of Science and Health” where a potential reading week is concerned.

The amendment is put to a vote and is accepted by majority.

As there are no further questions, the amended motion is then put to a vote and is passed by majority.

B) Seanad Representation – Rory Williams Doyle (10 minutes)

Rory begins by summarising the premise of his motion; As it stands, the only universities who’s graduates can vote in the Seanad elections are Trinity College and colleges that are under the National University of Ireland (i.e. UCD, UCC, NUIG and NUIM). DCU is roughly equal to TCD in both size and standing and he feels it’s time we start advocating for Seanad representation. He wants the SU to write a bill that we then approve and ask the Dáil to take up.

Response from Tadhg Jenkins (BAJP2): He congratulates Rory on writing the motion as he notes it is very word heavy and complicated to draft, but he is speaking against the motion. He believes we should be working against having education institutions being responsible for electing senators due to the barriers to education that are in place

Response from Rory: He refers to the referendum that was run to abolish the Seanad in 2013, but highlights that it was kept. There was then a group established for Seanad reform but that is yet to happen. He says we could stay on the outside looking in, but he feels if we really want to effect change or push for Seanad reform or for abolition, it would be better to advocate for this from the inside.

Question from Dean O’Reilly (BPY4): Could we amend the motion to say that after we get in, we will advocate for Seanad reform, so people know that’s our official plan?

Response from Rory: He wants to speak against the amendment as he feels we should work on acquiring senators first and then work alongside them to achieve specific goals. He notes this is a very specific motion in order to get a bill through the Dáil to get us senators.

The previously proposed amendment is then retracted.

Question from Derek Walsh (BAJM1): As senators are elected by graduates, not current students there could be low voter turnout. If we fight for a seat in The Seanad, we are saying we’d rather join an elite club than work towards expanding to all university graduates or abolishment.

Response from Rory: Senators are allocated to a particular institution and it’s then up to the institution to decide who votes. It is better to reform from the inside.

Response from Derek: We should try have all universities involved.

Response from Rory: The motion doesn’t inhibit the involvement of other organisations.

Response from Callaghan Commons (VP for Academic Affairs): He is encouraging people to vote this motion down as he feels we should be advocating for Seanad reform. He says the Seanad panels are elitist and generally filled with people who didn’t get Dáil seats. Any senator running at the moment have Seanad reform in their manifestos. He notes that Trinity is the oldest college in the country and this is why they have seats. Additionally, if we were to get seats we would be on the NUI panel, not our own independent panel. He thinks we could come back with a stronger motion on Seanad reform.

Response from Rory: He disagrees as he feels the best way to effect change is from the inside. We should accept reality and engage with the current system, but if this motion fails, he is willing to work together on a different motion.

Response from Dean: It's possible that if we were to acquire seats it would limit the ways in which we could reform the Seanad. Right now, there are more people outside the Seanad that could put pressure on them to reform. He notes that DCU being inside or outside the Seanad does not guarantee reform.

Response from Rory: He knows there's no guarantee but thinks it would be better to have pressure from both inside and outside.

Response from Dean: That works on the assumption that those we elect would stick to that promise. People who get seats like to keep them and would possibly not advocate for reform once elected.

Response from Tadhg Jenkins: We would be asking people to abolish their own jobs. It is easier to reform from the outside. He asks about student consultation and whether or not students want this? He notes it would require a lot of spending of DCUSU money.

Response from Rory: He is happy to open this up to student consultation. He hasn't got statistics but has had conversations with friends across different faculties and they were interested so he didn't see a need for formal evidence.

Response from Derek Walsh: Just to confirm, would this require a nationwide referendum? It's never going to get to referendum and if it did it would feel as its undesirable.

Response from Rory: He is remaining optimistic.

Ellen Quinn (BRH2) then proposes procedural motion 4(A)1 that the question now be put.

The procedural motion is put to a vote and is passed by majority.

Rory Williams Doyle gives his summation: The spirit of motion has already been widely discussed and he hopes we vote to pass the motion.

The motion is then put to a vote. The motion fails.

Response from Eoin Crossen: He would like to commend Rory's hard work on the motion.

5. Items for Information (10 minutes)

A) USI Update – Craig McHugh

Craig wishes everyone the best of luck in election season. He discusses the Disability Awareness Campaign that USI ran online as well as the Disability Awareness Conference happening later in the month. He mentions the USI mental health text line and encourages people to use it if needed, the cost of the service is the same as standard SMS charges. It connects people with trained mental health professionals. They have established the Creative Exchange Network to seek better support for students within Creative Arts Institutions. The day after General Election 2020 was called they published their student manifesto and asked different candidates and parties to sign up. They tried to outline student voters where parties stand on different issues. They want to hold political parties to what they said and keep pressure on them. They partnered with Newstalk and worked with RTÉ to make sure people knew about the voter registration deadline. He mentions the upcoming Seanad elections. The partook in a solidarity with TUI strike. He mentions the Women Lead

conference and says many previous attendees of the conference have gone on to run for SU or USI positions. They have been working on policy development for students with disabilities. They undertook a Brexit survey and found that a big concern for students is the threat to peace in the North. They supported TCD on their protest regarding pay for postgrads. He mentions the USI Congress due to take place from April 6th-9th. He encourages people to sign up for it. It is a great experience, really informative and very interesting. USI nominations close tonight. The Empower conference took place on the 24th of February. SAAI nominations open on the 12th of March and it is important we nominate all kind of students to recognise student leaders, activists and representatives. They'll be running a roadshow for Seachtain na Gaeilge. They ran a gender identity campaign online last week both in English and Irish. They participated in the TCD protest against rent increases. Michelle Byrne, USI VP for Campaigns, met with the housing spokesperson. As there is no official government at the moment, no rent freeze can be introduced, but he says real action can be done within SU's and on campus as the people who decide campus rents are based on campuses. He encourages people to get involved in SU strikes. The USI post-grad officer met with SIPTU for the Students Workers Rights centre. Sara and SIPTU are happy to chat to post-grads. They are running the 10,000 students campaign where they are encouraging 10,000 students to take small positive changes for a better world. All small actions add up to a big change.

6. A.O.B (20 minutes)

Lucien Waugh Daly (CS3): Election of Clubs Officer and Socs Officer

Lucien is addressing the fact that currently, nobody is running for the positions of Clubs Officer or Societies Officer and so, at the beginning of the academic year 2020/2021, these positions will be unfilled. He is wondering what other people think about the issue and when nominations are reopened at the beginning of next year, how we can encourage people to put themselves forward.

Response from Podge Sheehan (Returning Officer): The next time it is possible to run the elections for these positions is early in Semester 1 of next year as per the constitution. He notes there is also no Science and Health Faculty Rep at present but doesn't envision these positions will remain unfilled. He says there is not a huge body of work to be done over the Summer for these positions, but any necessary workload will be spread out.

Question from Lucien: Will these positions still being open affect the number of people who run for Society Life Committee and Club Life Committee positions?

Response from Thomas Dorian (Chair of Club Life Committee): They have been discussing this issue within CLC and they think it would be best if the current Clubs and Socs officers could stay on in a caretaker role until the position is filled. Alternatively, a member of CLC could temporarily fill the role. He notes the biggest duties for them come within the first 2 weeks of college with the Clubs and Socs fairs etc. and he feels they need a voice from the beginning of the academic year.

Response from Podge: As per the constitution, they couldn't sit on exec in an official capacity as they haven't technically been elected.

Response from Dean O'Reilly (BPY4): He is speaking from the perspective of the Society Life Committee. They will be discussing the issue at their next meeting but personally he doesn't think that not having a Societies Officer for the first 2 weeks would have a big impact.

Dean O'Reilly (BPY4) - Improving the accessibility of emails

He would like for SU emails to be more accessible. For example, an audio version of the SU email for students with visual impairments. He notes a screen-reader can't read the President's email.

Response from Christine: Currently the emails can be viewed in black and white but can definitely looking into them being recorded. It is a great idea.

Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4) – No minutes in the president's email and the election of a new ERC member:

Rory asks why the minutes from CRC5 were not included in the president's weekly emails as discussed at CRC5. He also notes that as of CRC5, an additional member of Electoral Referendum Committee needs to be elected.

Response from Podge Sheehan: Podge explains that a member of the ERC, Ellen Quinn, had to step down as she is running for election. He then explains what would be involved in the role such as giving a hand with hustings and sitting on the committee if any issues arise during election time.

Dean O'Reilly (BPY4) nominates Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4). This is seconded by Lucien Waugh Daly (CS3).

Rory is deemed elected

On that note CRC6, Semester 2 was adjourned.