

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

Minutes of Office of Student Life Board meeting

October 17th, 2022

Present: Eamon Cuggy, Úna Redmond, Thomas O’Dowd (SU President), and Eoin Crossen (SU VP for Academic Life).

Apologies: [Claire Bohan](#) Terence Rooney (immediate past SU President).

- 1) Welcomes and introductions: As this was Thomas and Eoin’s first meeting they were welcomed. They introduced themselves and confirmed that they both had completed the Board training in June and they found it useful to understand their responsibilities as Board members.
- 2) Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as a true record.
- 3) Matters arising: None not on the Agenda.
- 4) Update from OSL Director:
 - a) UR indicated that the Work life policy had run very successfully for its pilot year with some staff availing of the option to WFH for up to 2 days per week. It is well managed, both within and across units, and Wednesday is a designated “anchor” day with all staff on campus. There is a high level of staff satisfaction with it and because of the careful management there has been no negative impact on student facing services. She suggested that it be implemented on an ongoing basis and that she will provide a periodic update. This was approved.
 - b) It was a busy Freshers’ month and students events fully and positively engaged with all events on both campuses. Clubs and societies memberships are very healthy with over 15,000 to date. UR will provide an updated figure of overall and unique memberships for the next meeting. The CLC are working to resolve issues around access to and timing of their slots in DCU sports facilities. It has conducted a survey of clubs and once the data has been collated, it will meet with the Director of Sport and Wellbeing.
 - c) The OSL has over 20 student staff employed this academic year. This scheme is working very well, and there will now be a rate of pay for second year staff and the

introduction of two new roles as senior student staff. In addition to their paid work, the student staff also receive coaching and mentoring from the Head of Accounts and Administration.

- d) Financial update: UR provided an update to the end of June 2022 for the academic year 2021-22. Once the audit has been finalised the audited accounts will be circulated for comment. She also presented the budget for the coming year. This is broadly in line with the expenditure for 2021-22. EC suggested that a larger figure be included for salaries and related costs in anticipation of a salary review request based on the public sectors increases in the pipeline.
- 5) HR update. Podge Sheehan will return from his one-year leave of absence on October 26th. His replacement for the year, Barry Clohessy, has been redeployed to a new role incorporating events, peer mentoring and sabbatical support. Podge will have responsibility for strategic review and planning for the OSL as part of his brief once he returns. Two staff members resigned since the last meeting – the peer mentor coordinator and the marketing and communications coordinator. The peer mentor duties have been subsumed into the revised role for BC and the duties and responsibilities of the other role are currently under review. EC asked if the resignations were expected/explained. One was as the person is currently travelling as she had planned to do for some time. The person not feeling that the role was a good fit for him explained the other. There was no indication that the OSL was the issue. BC has indicated that he has been asked to serve on the steering committee of USI and is seeking board approval. The board approved this.
- 6) AOB: There was some discussion about the composition of the Board. The addition of the previous SU president to the board was proposed and approved two years ago and has been positive. However, it was suggested that in the event of the previous SU president being unwilling or unable to serve their term that the other sabbatical who had served should take their place. This was approved. UR raised the possibility of seeking an external member to chair the board. This would be best practice and would enhance the board. This is to be considered and some suitable names/roles to be explored in advance of the next meeting for consideration.
- 7) Date and time of next meeting: EC suggested that we wait until CB was back from leave to set the date and time. UR agreed, but advised that we should meet again before the end of January 2023 in any event. She will advise in due course.

Meeting concluded at 4.40pm

