

AGENDA



CRC 8

Semester 2

Date: 20-04-2020

Venue: Online Time: 13:00

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17CBG93Dt84&t=3s>

Exec Attendance: Katie Fay (VP for Engagement and Development), Christine Farrell (DCUSU President), Callaghan Commons (VP for Academic Affairs), Caoimhe O'Carroll (HSS Faculty Rep), Aisling Fagan (VP for Welfare and Equality), Hazel Byrne (DCUBS Faculty Rep), Olivia Forde (VP for Education and Placement) Mark McGee (Socs Officer), Sean Smyth (Education Faculty Rep), Cormac Flynn (CRC Chair), Sania Amjad (FSH Faculty Rep), Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (Irish Officer), Martin Clayton (First Year Rep), Josh Malone (Engineering and Computing Faculty Rep), David Martin (Clubs Officer),

1. Minutes and Matters Arising (2 minutes)

Question from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): Corrected paragraph 1 line 3 – should read 'overhauling the Seanad' rather than 'abolishing the Seanad' – Manning Report incorrectly spelled.

Response from Cormac+Sinéad: This will be taken on board and corrected.

When the minutes for the previous Class Rep Council (CRC6, Semester 2) were put to a vote they were accepted by the majority.

There were no further questions.

Cormac thanked and congratulated Sinéad on her hard work taking the minutes this year.

2. Officer reports (5 minutes)

Question from Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3): Pointed out that some reports were missing from the drive.

Response from Cormac: Cal Commons sent a video report however Cormac was having difficulty uploading it. Will be available soon.

Response from Katie Fay (VP Engagement and Development): Had been busy with class rep elections, will upload after meeting.

Response from Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (Irish Officer): Will also upload this evening.

Response from Aisling Fagan: Only sent in an hour ago, forgot to send to Cormac.

A) President's Update

Thanked all reps for their work on CRC over the year. SU were waiting on details on alternative assessments for students. Noted this email from University was unclear

and confusing. DCU making students without student voice at the table. SU not happy with what was release. Trying to make info student friendly. FAQ page created by University in collaboration with SU. SU only really being involved at the end of the process rather than through it. Cal now sitting on board looking at exam supports, Christine on tech working group. Would love to hear how students are actually getting on. Stressed importance of reps getting involved with Sabbats. Over 250 new reps elected this year, Clear the Head raised €13,000 for pieta house. OpinionX report sent to all faculty. Student staff forums carried out successfully last week.

Question from Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3): What is the University's plan for resit exams and next year?

Response from Christine: Resits – clearly stated that these will be online and no fees. Would not know at this stage during normal times anyway. Next year – mostly still unknown, up to department of education and HSE. Will update people when they find out. Hopefully an update end of May.

Question from Ben McMahon (CPSSD4): When were student staff forums? Heard nothing about them

Response from Christine: Student staff forums carried out with Quality Promotions office. Faculty reps source reps from a spread of courses.

Response from Katie Fay: Can't remember who exactly took part but would have been same ones that took part in semester 1.

Response from Josh Malone (Engineering and Computing Faculty Rep): 5/6 students from a broad course range took part. Reached out to reps he knew were involved in the process. Did not send out to everyone.

Response from Christine: Reminds reps that they are always looking for students to get involved in this process and to get in touch if they want to.

There are no further questions.

The officer reports accepted by majority

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

Podge Sheehan reminds reps that result for CRC officer elections will be in around 10 past 2.

4. Items for Agreement (40 minutes)

A) Covid-19 Examinations Procedure – Ben McMahon (10 minutes)

Ben points out motion came from class feedback and speaking to people outside his course. Points out confusion around examination and summarises motion. Thanked all student representatives.

Response from Christine: Thanked Ben for bringing the motion forward. Noted that DCU has said no exams will be on campus. Agrees that SU are not being involved enough. Would not be opposed to a letter but doesn't think a working group is the correct strategic move to get more involved, would be an inefficient use of time to set up a working group. This motion points out the lack of awareness that students have around exams due to poor communication from the SU.

Response from Callaghan Commons: Agrees on Christine's point on working group and letter.

Question from Chirsten Grant (AMPS2): Question for Christine and Cal, what weight do these exams have on final degrees? Students worried about grades this semester not being reflective of what they're capable of.

Response from Christine: Humanities faculty – years not in final year will not count to final grade. Has not heard from other faculties, will bring this up. Commended Ben on work on motion.

Response from Ben: Agrees working group unnecessary this year, would like one possibly to be set up next year. **Proposes amendment to motion.** Add words to change working group implementation timescale to next academic year.

Response from Caoimhe O'Carrol: Agrees with sentiment of motion. Would be nice to note that DCU is making efforts to accommodate students as best as possible even with all implications. Would like DCU staff to be acknowledged in letter.

Response from Ben: Would be happy to include this as a separate amendment.

This amendment was accepted

Question from Jacob (??): Years on INTRA and placements for second semester could be put at disadvantage from this. Suggests a course by course approach rather than a blanket approach.

Response from Christine: Doesn't want to go to University with something that will not benefit all students and actually disadvantage some. Agrees course by course is the best way to go.

Summation from Ben: People still clearly unsure and nervous about the whole situation. Lot of situations still not fully clear. Hopefully will cause DCU to look again and reconsider actions.

The motion was passed by majority.

Cormac commended Ben on a well written motion.

B) Motion Repository – Rory Williams Doyle (10 minutes)

Have all motions passed from CRC in one document sent out at the start of the academic year. What it is, when it will expire and the exact text.

Response from Katie Fay: Working on this, has started on it and is having difficulty finding all motions. Definitely needed.

Response from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): Amend motion to mandate VP for Engagement and Development rather than Academic Affairs.

Amendment accepted by majority.

Motion passed by majority.

C) CRC Scheduling – Eoin Crossen (10 minutes) Brought Forward from CRC5

Eoin outlines that the situation has changed since motion was brought up. Proposes procedural motion 4 a) 2) that the question not be put.

Procedural Motion Passed.

CRC Scheduling – Eoin Crossen (10 minutes) Brought Forward from CRC1
Eoin outlines that the situation has changed since motion was brought up. Proposes procedural motion 4 a) 2) that the question not be put.

Procedural Motion Passed. The question will not be put.

D) No Detriment Policy – Eoin Crossen (10 minutes) Brought Forward from CRC7

Would use this chance to inform council of UCD policy of reviews across the board and reviewing grades in line with previous years and previous academic performance of students. All students have extenuating circumstances due to covid-19.

Response from Christine: UCD policy. Has been speaking to USI to figure out what exactly is happening. Would want DCU students to be treated in the same way. Will be speaking to UCD and USI to figure out exact policy implications. Will then bring this to DCU authorities. DCU already doing no repeat fees, free postpone, telephone helpline, submitting assignments by email.

Question from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): If you fail a summer exam and do a repeat is the most you can get a pass? Or if you repeat and get a first do you get the first?

Response from Eoin: From his reading 'resit attempts will be graded according to the full grading scale as opposed to pass/fail under current regulations.' – yes from his reading.

Response from Christine: Currently in DCU if you fail in May and get 20% that would be what is counted for degree classification. This year the passing grade will be used instead. (40%) Still have to pass all elements of the course to progress. If all students had extenuating circumstances, August attempts would be counted as first attempts and would therefore have that grade used to calculate degree classification.

Question from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): Would it be possible to speak to University about moving to an approach like this? Seems to be more preferable to students than current solution.

Response from Christine: UCD coming out with this would set a precedent and give SU more power to lobby DCU for this. Will bring it up at the higher level.

Response from Ben McMahon (CPSSD4): Disappointed that UCD have come out with a shorter, clearer and more beneficial message for students. Disappointed QQI have not taken a grasp on this situation on a broader level.

Response from Callaghan Commons: Take UCD policy with a pinch of salt. Nothing formally published yet and set in stone. QQI are leaving it up to HEAs and will support their decisions as long as they stay within regulation.

Response from Ben: Thanks Cal for info re QQI and clarification. Hopeful UCD will follow through with policy.

Response from Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (Irish Officer): Was speaking to part time reps in UCD. Article published about plans and nothing set in stone and no policy fully changed yet.

Response from Laurence Cuffe (HDSD): Also teaches, big cohort of students who are without internet and unable to contribute due to care of relatives etc.

Question from Jimmy Barry-Murphy (SE3): What is the difference between current policy in DCU and proposed UCD policy?

Response from Christine: Thanked Laurence for his contribution. Noted that a lot of people will be disadvantaged in this way and unable to speak up so the SU are keeping those people in mind. At this point Christine experienced connection issues.

Katie Fay continues: Currently in DCU if you fail in May and repeat in August your grade in May will be used to calculate your degree, this has been changed to using the pass rate instead. UCD position seems to be to use full grading from resit exam to calculate degree.

Response from Eoin: This is also his understanding. Notes that this is not a confirmed policy as people have earlier pointed out. Would be far more student friendly than current DCU position in his opinion.

Response from Kate Goodman (AMPS3): Business faculty students have mostly assignments due in the first and second week of May as registry want results submitted by the 21st of May, suggests this date should be pushed back to give more scope for extension.

Cormac received notice of procedural motion 4 A (1) that the question now be put. This procedural motion passed.

A vote was taken on the motion and the motion passed.

Point of information from Christine: Checking if reps fully understood what was being voted on.

Point of information from Eoin Crossen (BEd2): Pointed out motion included a mandate for a report at CRC8 (which is this meeting). Motion seems to be invalid.

Cormac ruled that this was unclear, returned to a vote on the procedural motion that

the question now be put.

Response from Eoin: Told people to vote against the motion, was only intended to be used as a platform for discussion at this stage and to be voted against as now it is invalid. Vote yes to put the question now and vote no on the actual motion.

Point of information from Podge Sheehan: Would it be better to change to procedural motion 4 A (2) that the question not be put?

Response from Eoin: Happy with this if proposer of the procedural motion is.

Cormac received notice of procedural motion 4 A (5) – a challenge to the chairperson’s ruling from Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3)

Jimmy Barry Murphy (SE3): As per schedule D standing orders, when a procedural motion is called they get to speak on it. This didn’t happen and caused confusion in his opinion. Move to nullify votes and do them again.

Previous votes would be deemed null and void if this procedural motion passes.

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

Cormac reopened debate with procedural motion 4 A (2) that the question not be put.

Eoin Crossen (BEd2): Urges people to vote in favour of this motion

Point of Information from Rory Williams Doyle (CPSSD4): Question for chair on procedure of this. Would votes on previous motions (4 A (2) and vote on motion) need to be held again arising from 4 A(5)?

Response from Christine: Interprets constitution in a way that says this is not Necessary and that we move forward on 4 A (2).

Chairperson agrees with this interpretation and holds a vote on procedural motion 4 A (2).

A vote on procedural motion 4 A (2) that the question not be put was held and was passed by majority.

Eoin Crossen (BEd2): Apologises for the mess and confusion caused.

5. Items for Discussion (0 minutes)

N/A

6. Items for Information (15 minutes)

A) OpinionX Report – Christine Farrell (15 minutes)

OpinionX is a new start up run by final year MINT student Daniel Kyne. The SU decided to utilise this start up to investigate how students were getting on with regards to online learning, assessments and the general university environment in the digital sphere. The report is finished and available for reps to read. The SU hopes that the University will take some of the feedback on board as a result of the survey for the forthcoming academic year.

The report was displayed for the reps to see and had been circulated before the meeting.

7. A.O.B (N/A)

8. CRC Officer Elections

Secretary Election: One candidate, Sinéad Whelan, mandatory alternative, Reopen nominations

Total Valid Poll: 44
Sinead Whelan: 42
Reopen nominations: 2

Sinéad Whelan is deemed elected as Secretary of CRC for academic year 2020/21

Chairperson Election: One candidate, Eoin Crossen, mandatory alternative, Reopen nominations.

Total Valid Poll: 57
Eoin Crossen: 55
Reopen nominations: 2

Eoin Crossen is deemed elected as Chairperson of CRC for academic year 2020/21

Cormac Flynn: Congratulated Eoin on his work as a class rep so far and wished him best of luck in the future. Thanked Sinéad for her work as Secretary this year.

Class Rep awards were held.

Cormac gave way to Eoin Crossen (CRC Chairperson elect) to close the meeting.

On that note, CRC8 Semester 2 was adjourned